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Police check hospitals over 'backdoor euthanasia'

By Michael Horsnell

THE deaths of at least 50 hospital patients around Britain are being investigated by police and health officials amid allegations of a creeping tide of backdoor euthanasia.

Seven separate inquiries are looking into claims that doctors have withheld intravenous drips from dehydrated patients, often while they were under sedation, and left them to die from thirst. The patients involved were suffering from strokes, asthma, other common medical conditions and dementia. At least five hospitals — in Derby, Surrey, Kent and Sussex — are at the centre of police inquiries as a result of relatives' complaints or nurses' whistleblowing, while others have been referred to the General Medical Council and health authorities.

The Crown Prosecution Service will soon decide whether to prosecute in two important cases in which doctors have been accused of manslaughter due to criminal negligence. In the most serious of these, police are investigating 40 deaths at the Kingsway Hospital in Derby, where nurses claimed that dementia sufferers on a psycho-geriatric ward were starved and dehydrated until they became so weak that they died from infections.

The inquiry was launched in November, 1997 after junior nurses complained, and papers relating to patients at the hospital between 1993 and 1997 are expected to be sent to the CPS in the spring.

In general, the practice of denying nutrition and fluids to patients diagnosed as entering the final phase of a terminal illness is defended as "helping nature to take its course". But some doctors condemn it as involuntary euthanasia.

The cases of patients in persistent vegetative state (PVS) such as the Hillsborough disaster victim Tony Bland, must be referred to the courts. But a grey ethical area allows doctors to "exercise their clinical judgment" in other cases.

Sources in the medical profession suggest that some may be using that discretion to keep patients quiet and acquiescent on the wards. Some who have had had a momentary choking fit, for example, have then been put on a nil-by-mouth regime, sedated and left to dehydrate.

Dr Gillian Craig, a retired consultant geriatrician from Northampton, has told the Royal College of Physicians that water and food are basic human needs that should not be regarded as treatment that a doctor may give or withhold. "Sadly there are times when sedation without hydration seems tantamount to euthanasia.

"This strengthens the hand of those who are pressing to legalise physician-assisted suicide. Good palliative medicine is a major defence against euthanasia, but please heed my warning. Sedation without hydration has enormous potential for misuse. I would like to see this regime consigned to the dustbin of history.

"Attention to hydration is not merely an option, it should be a basic part of good medicine."

Another case being considered by the CPS concerns the death of an 81-year-old woman who was admitted to hospital in Surrey in May 1997 for treatment for constipation and a urine infection. Her health was otherwise good. She was denied intravenous fluids, in spite of the pleading of relatives.

At one stage a hospital crash team, called at her daughter's insistence by a doctor previously unconnected with the case, carried out emergency measures that required cutting into her neck and groin arteries to insert fluid lines. But septicaemia and multiorgan failure had by then set in. Her daughter said: "This was not a dying patient when she was admitted. In fact she was a relatively healthy lady, full of fun, with a relatively common problem. Six days later she was on her death bed as a direct result of dehydration. I had literally begged them with my hands pressed together in supplication to rehydrate her."

The issue of withholding or withdrawing treatment has been taken

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Leading article, page 17

Saddam tries to lure US jets into trap

From Damian Whitworth in Washington

AMERICAN fighter aircraft attacked Iraqi planes in the air for the first time for six years yesterday after Saddam Hussein apparently tried to lure the Western pilots into a trap.

Six air-to-air missiles were fired at warplanes in the southern no-fly zone, which was being patrolled by F14 Navy jets and F15 fighters. Iraqi MiG and Mirage warplanes committed eight separate violations with between 13 and 15 planes yesterday, but none appeared to have been shot down in the two skirmishes in which missiles were fired — although one is thought to have crashed after running out of fuel.

The Pentagon suspected that Saddam was trying to lure American planes into areas where they would be vulnerable to surface-to-air missiles or surprise attack from other aircraft, but the spokesman Ken Bacon said that American pilots were trained to deal with that.

Yesterday's incidents followed two missile exchanges with Iraqi missile batteries in eight days. Saddam has said that Baghdad will no longer recognize the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq, set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south. But Mr Bacon saw the transgressions as a sign that the Iraqi leader was frustrated and that the airstrikes of Operation Desert Fox had done more damage to his military infrastructure than had been thought.

Reporting yesterday's incident, an Iraqi military spokesman said: "The hawks of our brave air force confronted and clashed with the aggressive American and British planes at 10.22 (0722 GMT) and the enemy planes withdrew. All the planes of our air force returned to their bases safely."

At the same time, Saddam urged Arabs to overthrow their leaders if they were allied to America. "Revolt against foreign powers, their aggression and their armies and chase them. Kick out injustice and its perpetrators," he said in a speech to mark the anniversary of the foundation of the Iraqi army. "Revolt against those who boast of friendship with the United States, those who are guided by (US Defence Secretary) William Cohen.

"The dwarves on their thrones will be forced to hear you, or else they will step down to give way for the people to say their opinion and take their action."

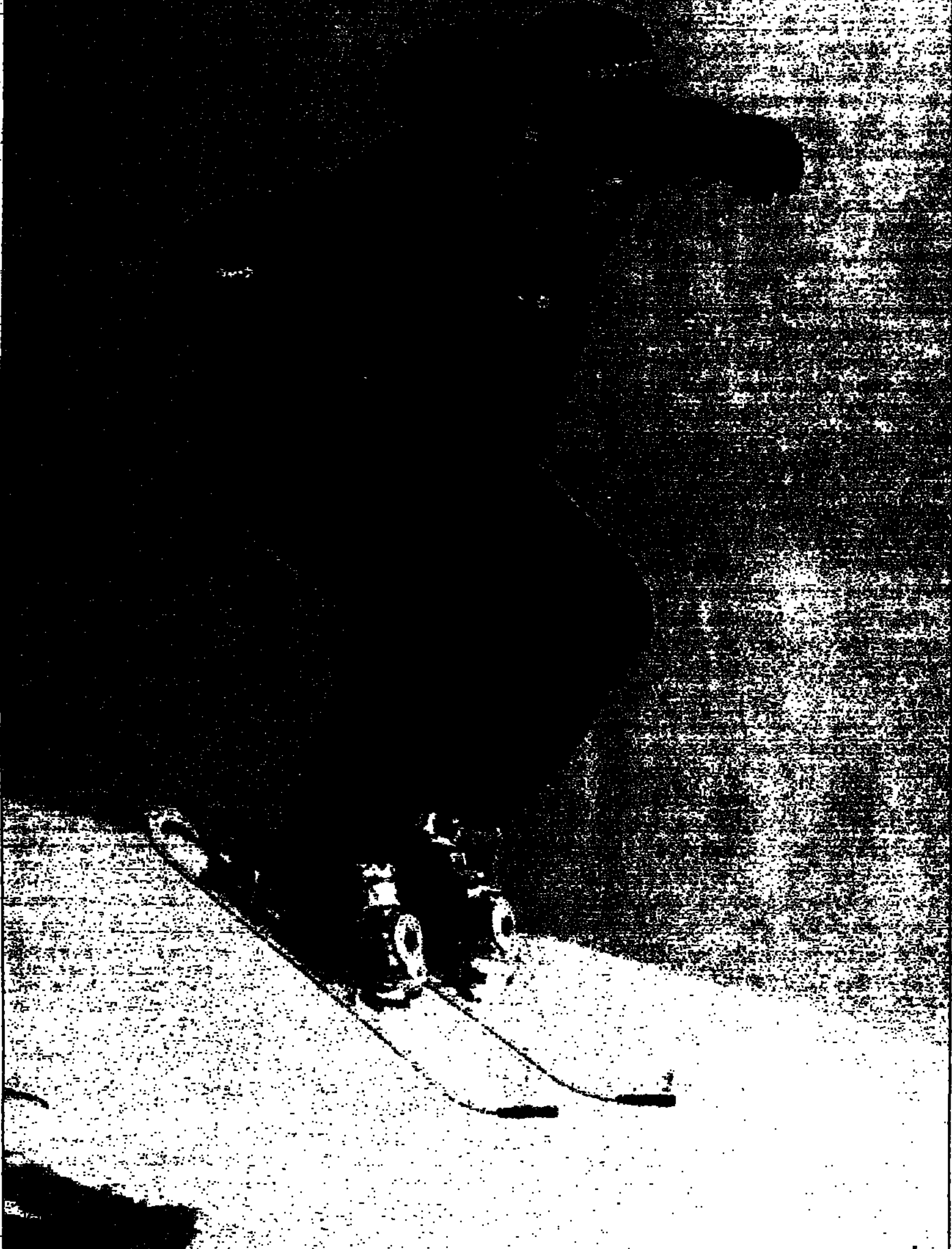
The city of Jerusalem was a "humiliated hostage" and the holy Muslim city of Medina, in Saudi Arabia, was "wounded by the presence of foreign soldiers and their spears. Look around to see how mischievous persons have humiliated your sacred places which are now trodden by foreign powers after conniving with them so as to hit the great Iraq of Jihad," Saddam said.

The renewed military action came as the White House continued with preparations for Mr Clinton's trial by the Senate, which opens tomorrow. The hearing, once expected to be over by next week, is now thought more likely to be a full-scale trial with witnesses, including Monica Lewinsky.



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ANDY METTLER / REUTERS

Prince Harry shows off his jumping skills on a pair of 3ft snowblades during a photocall at Klosters yesterday

Prince Harry takes to the air with the latest skiing craze

By Alan Hamilton

PRINCE HARRY gave a powerful boost to the latest winter craze of snowblading yesterday when he executed a small but perfect ski jump in front of the world's media and landed on his feet unaided by the steadying influence of poles.

There was no mistaking the generation gap between the 14-year-old Prince and his 50-year-old father as they performed their ritual photocall for the press during their annual skiing holiday at Klosters in the Swiss Alps. The Prince of Wales led off with a small and cautious jump from a modest snow hummock using conventional skis and poles.

But his son quickly outshone him. Wearing a pair of 3ft snowblades, less than half the length of traditional skis, given to him by their French manufacturers, Harry soared a good two feet in the air, twice the altitude of his father's effort, and landed without faltering.

Photocalls at Klosters are something of a tribulation to the Prince and his sons, so much so that the shy Prince William elected to stay behind this year and join friends in Scotland. The Prince of Wales agrees to one brief meeting with the press in the hope that they will then leave him alone for the rest of his week's holiday.

Last year, in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the arrangement worked well. This year the Prince and his younger son, by performing tricks for the cameras, have given the media appetite for more.

In a brief and amicable exchange with reporters the Prince was asked whether he or his son was the better skier. "That is not a fair question; I suspect youth has the advantage," he replied. Asked if he would be sending a postcard to Prince William, the Prince wryly replied: "I think William will be able to read about it."

Prince Harry is emerging as an enthusiastic and competent skier, more Harry the Hawk than Eddie the Eagle. Last year he tried Big Foot fun skis: this year he has mastered snowblades, described by their makers as the snow equivalent of in-line skating, slightly wider and more flexible than regular skis.



"I thought you would like them — they're all the rage"

The main advantage of snowblades over the Big Foot skis is speed. Their manoeuvrability also make them good for flips and jumps and snowbladers are set to rival snowboarders for tricks on the snowboarding parks springing up in Alpine resorts. Purists turn their noses up at snowblades as they sink in deep powder snow.

Snowblades do not have the normal ski binding which releases the foot when the wearer falls. Instead they have an adjustable binding which keeps boot and ski together whatever happens.

The Princes are accompanied on their holiday by Tiggy Legge-Bourke, a former nanny to the Prince's children, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, the so-called "It" girl whose parents are long-standing skiing partners of the Prince.

Aden orders out anti-terror Yard squad

From Daniel McGrory in Aden

TWO Scotland Yard detectives were told last night to leave Aden on the first available flight after being refused permission to interview the leader of the gang that abducted 16 Western hostages.

The order to leave the port city came hours after the Governor of Aden promised the anti-terrorist detectives full co-operation. The sudden change of heart by the Yemenis may well cause a serious diplomatic rift. The joint Scotland Yard and FBI investigation becomes meaningless if the detectives cannot question Abu Hassan or the three terrorists arrested in Aden for trying to blow up British targets.

British diplomats were stunned by the order from Aden's security chief, General Mohammed Saleh Turaik, who had been prepared to let police visit the scene of the gunfight in which four hostages died. The FBI and the Yard detectives have not yet been ordered out of Yemen. But that may happen if diplomatic relations worsen today.

Swift retaliation is expected from Whitehall and Washington, who fear Yemen is being used as a base by Islamic terrorists.

The FBI is convinced the kidnap last week was carried out by Islamic terrorists funded and trained by the Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden, who is accused of being behind a series of bombings on Western targets.

Diplomats will try to get senior Yemeni officials to change their minds today, but the two detectives are returning to the capital Sanaa. The Foreign Office has already strongly criticised the Yemeni government for their handling of this affair.

The Yard detectives have now spent four days being refused any access to any of the key figures involved in the recent terrorist atrocities. The Yemeni authorities fear the Yard team will uncover embarrassing links with major terrorist groups, including bin Laden, whose family have investments in the country.

Port deal, page 12

Whelan tipped for job at union

A job at the TGWU would keep Brown's former aide in touch, says Roland Watson

CHARLIE WHELAN, the Chancellor's departing spin-doctor, is tipped *for a job* with the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Rather than turning his back on *frontline politics following* a turbulent 20 months in the Treasury, the move would allow the controversial *Mr Whelan to remain closely in*volved in the Westminster scene.

Speculation about such a move *has already prompted* fears *in government* circles that Mr Whelan, blamed by ministers for leaking the details of Peter Mandelson's £373,000 home loan, could use the post to act as a thorn in the Government's side. One government source, asked how Downing Street would react if Mr Whelan moved to the TGWU, said *"with absolute horror"*.

Mr Whelan, said by friends to re*main very committed to the world of* organised labour, indicated yesterday that he was not looking for a lucrative *job in the City, despite ru*moured six-figure offers.

Another potential avenue - his hopes *of securing* a job with his beloved Tottenham Hotspur - also appeared to be dashed last night. Alan Sugar, the chairman of the Premier League club, interrupted a holiday in the United *States* to say: "I have had no contact with Mr Whelan and I personally cannot conceive of any role for him at Tottenham."

But *the possibility of* Mr Whelan working for the TGWU is said to have been raised at the highest levels of the union. Bill Morris, the TGWU general secretary, is a close ally of Mr Brown, and the union has been a consistent supporter of the Chancellor".

Mr Whelan is highly regarded in union circles, both for his ideological roots on the left - he is a former communist - and for *his ability as* a backroom fixer while working for the AEU.

However, such a high-profile return to his roots would unsettle those ministers who want his departure from the Treasury to draw a line both under the affair of Mr Mandelson's home loan and the often bitter personal rivalry between the camp-followers of Mr Brown and the Prime Minister.

Mr Whelan was last night expected to leave his job within days following a day of concerted Tory attacks. *The Opposition said* it was untenable for him to remain in office so close to the March Budget after he had announced *his resignation*.

In comments interpreted by MPs as a signal to Mr Whelan not to de*lay his* departure, *Peter Kilfoyle*, minister in the Cabinet Office, said he believed the spin-doctor would be leaving "sooner rather *than later*".

The job of the TGWU's senior press spokesman has been vacant *since the summer and the union is* currently undergoing an internal reorganisation. *Mr Morris told The Times* last night that the possibility of Mr Whelan working for the union was a "hypothetical *situation*". He added: "You are asking me a question out of the blue. We have no need for a press officer and I do the *hiring* and firing around here."

Mr Whelan, who was unavailable for comment, will need the "agree*ment of the Crown*" before he takes up any job outside Government. The words are included in his con*tract, as they* are for all special advisers employed by ministers. "The Crown" in this instance means Sir Andrew Turnbull, the Permanent Secretary at the Treasury.

Muslim protesters will dog Blair's trip to South Africa

Demonstrators will hold mass meetings against air strikes, reports Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR'S first official *visit to South Africa risks* being overshadowed by demonstrations by angry Muslims *protesting* over Britain's decision to join in air attacks on Iraq last month.

Mulsims against Global Oppression (MAGO) have threat*ened to hold a mass demon*stration in Cape Town on Thursday,and further protests *in other areas*.

The group has insisted that they will hound the prime min*ister throughout his visit, the* first to South Africa since Mr Blair gained power. It has *made clear that it is totally op*posed to the bombing of Iraq and was "disgusted at the kill*ing of innocent women and* children." the group's spokesman has said: " We will hound *him wherever he goes.*"

But Downing Street made clear last night that the prime minister would be taking no extra security personnel with him on his trip, despite fears of mass protests. A spokesman said that Mr Blair had been aware of the threats but had no intention of changing his personal security arrangements.

A spokesman said that the South African police would *play a large role* in ensuring adequate security during the visit and the prime minister was happy to rely on this, said the spokesman.

It is understood that securi*ty arrangements in South Afri*ca are always very tight during visits of heads of state or *government*.

Mr Blair will be collected this morning from the Sey*chelles where he is holidaying* with his wife and family, before flying to Pretoria for the start of his first visit to South Africa since he became prime minister.

The prime minister's spokesman insisted that there would be no extra cost to the taxpayer divert to the Seychelles on a chartered British Airways Jumbo jet.

The aim of the visit is to bid farewell to the outgoing President Nelson Mandela and strengthen ties with Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president who *is likely* to suceed Mr Mandela later this year.

During his visit Mr Blair *will have several* meetings with Mr Mbeki to discuss new investment and defence orders and an aid *package* for South Africa and the whole continent.

Mr Blair's spokesman said that the two men would discuss defence orders worth over £1billion which covered a range of equipment and had al*ready involved extensive nego*tiations.

The spokesman also suggest*ed that the trade links between* the two countries could be supported by up to £4billion in ex*trta British investment*.

The prime minister is determined to further develop Brit*ain's relations with South Afri*ca and Africa as a whole. He will be discussing his govern*ment's* "Third Way" approach which was similar to some policy thinking in South Africa.

The prime minister will also ask President Mandela to continue applying pressure to persuade Colonel Gaddafi to agree a trial in The Hague for the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie Pam Am jet bombs. In addition give Presi*dent Mandela* a detailed background on Britain's decision to join the US in the raids on Iraq.

During his vistit he will also meet British defence advisers *who have been helping to re*construct South Africa's defence forces into a volunteer *army capable of playing key* peacekeeping roles.

CHRIS MARTIN BAHR/ARDEA



The white-tailed eagle had virtually vanished from Scotland until the reintroduction programme started in 1968

Eagle off the danger list

THE magnificent white-tailed eagle is back *in such numbers* in Scotland that it was removed from the official list of rare birds yesterday.

Britain's largest native bird of prey suffered from the atten*tions of trophy hunters and* sheep farmers to such an extent throughout the 19th centu*ry that the population dwin*dled rapidly, with the last pair breeding on Skye in 1916. *Only the odd migrant* was seen on British shores until 1968, when a project to reintro*duce the white-tailed* eagle, also known as the sea eagle, was launched on Rhum in the *Inner Hebrides using* birds from Norway.

The huge birds — scientific *name Haliaeetus albicilla* — slowly but surely began to reestablish themselves and *breed in small numbers*. Now half a dozen pairs are breeding successfully in a good year — *enough for them to* be removed from the offical list of the British Birds Rarities *Committee*.

☐ The Savi's warbler is the latest officially endangered bird *after numbers plummeted to* one or two pairs.



Savi's warbler: endangered

Care in community no threat, say psychiatrists

By Susie Steiner

PSYCHIATRISTS provoked anger yesterday by saying that care in the community *had* had no effect on the number of murders committed by the mental*ly ill*.

Research by two forensic psychiatrists for the Institute of Psychiatry *showed* a steady drop in the proportion of murders committed by the mental*ly ill since the Fifties, despite* the closure of mental hospitals and the adoption of communi*ty care*.

"There is a great anxiety that, with the advent of community care, that all of us become much more vulnerable," said *Professor* Pamela Taylor, one of the report's authors, at a press conference yesterday. "The figures simply don't support that. There is no evidence to support the notion that community care has influenced the figures or *made* society a more dangerous place."

While around 40 people are killed each year by people with mental disorders, the researchers emphasised that around *4,000 died annually on Brit*ain's roads.

Michael Howlett, director of the *Zito Trust, said*: "To compare the chances of being killed by a mentally ill person with the chances of being killed in a car crash is not only meaningless but insensitive to the feelings of families who have been bereaved. What the death of Jonathan Zito in 1992 exposed in graphic detail was the failure of services to cope with seriously difficult patients who are abandoned by those responsible for their welfare.

*"It is remarkable that psychi*atrists, who have been as vociferous as anyone in their criti*cism of Government policy*, should now appear to be saying that root-and-branch re*form is not necessary*."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE, said: "It bene*fits no one* to *ignore* the flaws of a system whose failings are exposed time and again when a tragedy is investigated."

Shifting views on euthanasia



FORTY years ago, when I was a junior hospital doctor, the ethics that determined our care for the elderly and the terminally ill were well understood. *We didn't need a High* Court decision, welcome as the recent one has been, to allow us to use adequate doses of analgesia to control pain, albeit that the side-effects might shorten the patient's life. However, even if we didn't strive officiously to keep patients alive by overtreating those who lives had become a misery, we *did nothing to shorten a life de*liberately when the only objective was the earlier death of the patient. Older doctors are shocked at the idea of deliberately dehydrating patients.

All doctors realise that there are patients who are unlikely *to make* a good recovery but are likely to *survive*. A problem is that, whereas to a young doctor the quality of life of these patients may seem so low as to be not worth keeping, most of the patients are *very grateful for what life they* have. Research has shown that the criteria considered to *warrant euthanasia by people* who believe in it when they are young and active become much more stringent once the person questioned is older and *nearer death*.

If fluids are withdrawn death is inevitable from dehy*dration within days. If the pa*tient is conscious the only way of saving them the discomfort, pain and restlessness that would precede their death is to tranquillise them, even if the sedatives prescribed will further hasten their end. If the *same sedatives were given as* one massive dose nobody would have any doubts that *this was euthanasia: and even* if they are given in smaller doses over a period of time, the end result is the same.

It is ironical that before a life-support machine can be turned off in *the case of* someone who, for instance, has suffered an irremediable head in*jury, the procedures that* have to be fulfilled are exhaustive, and the decision is taken at the *highest level*.

If, on the other hand, fluids are to be withheld so that the patient will surely *die, this* may be at the behest of junior staff.

Police check hospital deaths

Continued from page 1

up by the British Medical Association in a huge consultation exercise and the association's medical ethics committee hopes to produce practical guidelines when it is complete.

The consultation paper, *Withdrawing and Withholding Treatment*, asks whether food and drink might be withdrawn from patients such as severely impaired stroke victims as well as those in a persistent vegetative state.

But Dr Craig said: "This is already happening without any regulation whatsoever. Moreover, the BMA are clearly aware of this. It can happen when the carers have reached the limit of their resources and are no longer able to stand patients' problems without anxiety, guilt or anger. A sedative will alter the situation and produce a patient who, if not dead, is at least quiet."

She also spoke about the dangers of grouping together patients who might be misdiagnosed as terminally ill in institutions where staff are orientated towards death and non*intervention. She cited the case* of an elderly man sent to hospital for terminal care with a di*agnosis of cancer. The geriatri*cian felt the diagnosis was not well established and found the main problem was dehydration. With intravenous rehydration and intensive nursing, he recovered and went home for 18 months.

Some doctors are concerned over the distress dehydration can cause even in *PVS* patients. Dr Anthony Cole, a consultant paediatrician at Worcester Royal Infirmary and chairman of a *Roman* Catholic ethics committee, said: "There is some *scientific* evidence that, *if the base of* the brain is intact, patients will experience thirst even if the high*er functions* have been lost. Death from dehydration is painful and unacceptable."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unionist rift over Sinn Fein

One of the smallest parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly split yesterday when four of its five representatives abandoned their leader. The defectors formed the Northern Ireland Unionist Party, leaving Robert McCartney, the MP for North Down, as the sole voice in the assembly of the UK Unionist Party.

The break was over his call for a walkout if Sinn Fein is admitted to the executive without prior IRA decommissioning. There are now seven Unionist groups.

Terrorists foiled

The Continuity IRA — the only republican terrorist *group not to have declared* a ceasefire — was yesterday said to be behind a bungled £500,000 raid on a security van in Dublin. Garda sources believe the terrorists were on a fund-raising mission to sponsor a new wave of terrorism when they rammed a Brinks-Allied security van.

Ward suspect

A second suspect was charged yesterday *with the murder* of British tourist Julie Ward in the Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya ten years ago. David Kadula ole Nchoko, 28, a former clerk at the reserve, appeared in court in Nairobi before the chief magistrate Peter Mugo. He did not enter a plea but faces the death penalty if convicted.

Born in prison

A woman gave birth to a boy only hours after being jailed for four months for dealing in drugs. Sharon Williams, 32, began her sentence in the maternity unit of Fazakerley Hos*pital after going into labour* as she was taken to the cells in Liverpool Crown Court. Wil*liams, who has four other chil*dren, will be transferred to a mother and baby unit.

Pellet boy critical

A *schoolboy* was *unconscious* last night after he was shot in the head with an airgun pellet while playing with friends in Clacton, Essex. Richard Bryant, 13, was transferred to a specialist neurological unit after it was found that the pellet was lodged close to his brain. A 14-year-old boy was later arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm.

Train hits car

A passenger train caught fire after vandals pushed a burning car into its path. There were more than 40 commuters on board, all of whom escaped injury. The two-carriage train crashed into the stolen car on a level crossing near Cwmbach, South Wales. Flames engulfed one of the carriages, shattering windows and melting seats.

MoD sex case

A senior army officer, cleared of scandalous conduct after an *affair* with a Wren, *started* a sex discrimination case against the Ministry of De*fence at Southampton. Lieuten*ant-Colonel Keith Pople, 42, was suspended after a court *martial. Lieutenant-Comman*der Karen Pearce, with whom he had the affair, is being considered for *promotion*.



Churches turn Che into the Son of God

Controversial advert claims Jesus was a revolutionary, reports Ruth Gledhill

THE image of the communist revolutionary Che Guevara is being used by Britain's Churches to represent Jesus Christ in the latest Easter advertising campaign.

The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church have distanced themselves from the campaign, even though both denominations were represented on the ecumenical group behind it.

The poster of Che, who executed traitors in the jungle and once said he would "slit the throats of any enemy who falls into my hands", was also criticised by leading evangelicals and traditionalists. One leading bishop said it was especially misleading to portray a revolutionary image given the "mealy-mouthed comments" of bishops over the Iraq affair last month.

For the Churches' campaign, the world-renowned picture of Che Guevara has been overlaid with an image of Jesus from a classical painting to produce a black-on-red poster designed to help new Christians "discover the real Jesus".

The poster has clear overtones of the Alberto Korda photograph that has graced millions of student bedsits and T-shirts worldwide. Intended for church noticeboards, bus stops and advertising hoardings, it says: "Meek and Mild. As If. Discover the Real Jesus. Church, April 4."

The campaign was masterminded by the same Christian advertising executives who dreamed up the controversial "Bad Hair Day" Christmas campaign. An earlier Easter campaign had to be withdrawn because of copyright problems with the intended slogan, based on the *X-Files*.

Chas Bayfield, of the leading agency HHCL and Partners, which handles the Britvic Tango account and many others, is one of two advertising executives who donated their time free to draw up the campaign. Mr Bayfield, who worked on the Che poster with Trevor Webb of the agency DMB & B, said: "The traditional image of Jesus is a bit of a fairy in a white dress with a halo. The New Testament version is very different. Jesus is actually a revolutionary."

Mr Bayfield is a member of Christians in the Media, a group of about 30 advertising and marketing executives set up to help the churches promote themselves better.

He said he developed the poster by taking the image of Che Guevara and overlaying a classical painting of Christ he found on an Internet site.

"Jesus was an angry man a lot of the time," he said. "He was not all sweetness and light. Those with a Sunday school view of Christianity might be shocked by it but anyone who reads the Bible regularly will not be."

The Christians in the Media team was overseen by the Churches Advertising Network, an ecumenical group with representatives from all the mainstream churches.

One member, the Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Rector of Haslingfield, Cambridge, and a former advertising executive who was ordained priest in 1995, admitted the advertisements were provocative.

Referring to the Benetton campaigns, he said there was no intention on the network's part to cause offence. "We do not want to use shock tactics."

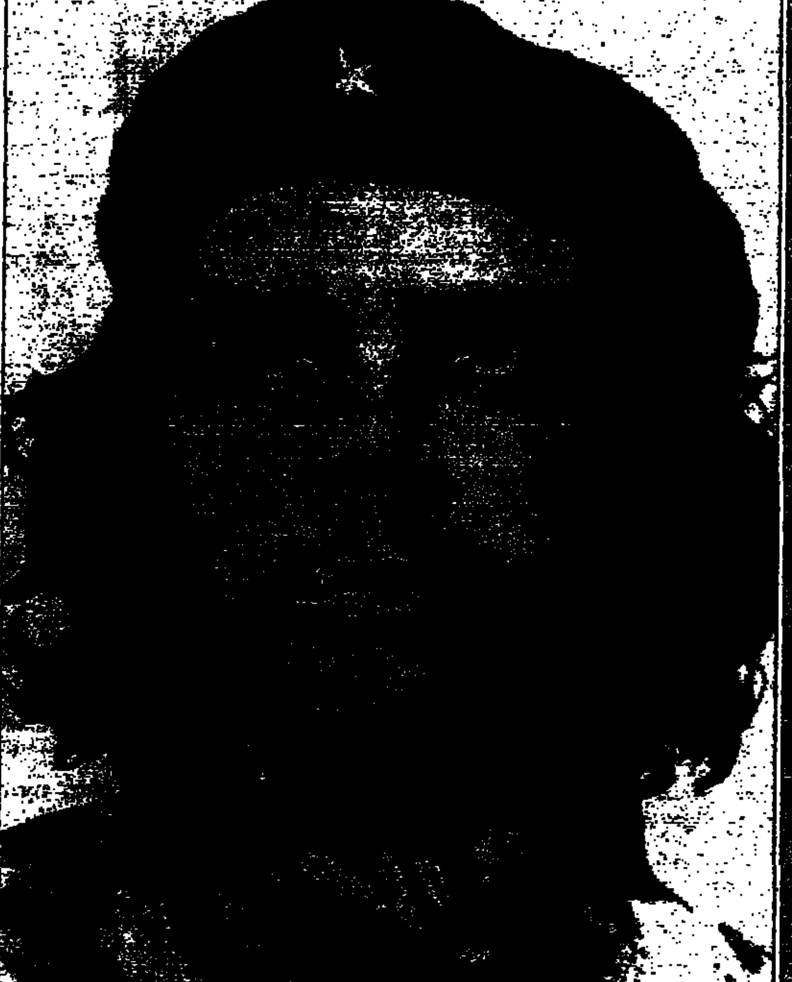
But he added: "The traditional Jesus has been seen as this meek and mild, almost ineffectual figure. But he was crucified for being quite the opposite. We are not saying Jesus was a communist. We are saying Jesus was a revolutionary."

The Rev Tom Ambrose, of the Ely diocese and a member of the network, said the aim was to encourage people to challenge stereotypes: "We do not want to produce wallpaper, we want advertisements that will stand up and be noticed." He said the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, had not been consulted. When he showed the poster to his own Bishop, Dr Stephen Sykes, of Ely, the response was "silence".

The network, set up in 1991 with a low-key advertising campaign in the Oxford diocese, is sending out 50,000 brochures to churches nationwide urging them to buy the £15 four-sheet posters, or A3 posters for £1 each, to put on their noticeboards.

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and chairman of the Church of England communications committee, said: "There is a big difference between Che Guevara and Jesus. Some churches could bowl themselves out just by putting it up."

The Right Rev Noel Debroy Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man and former Chaplain of the Fleet, said he would be advising churches in his diocese not to use it. "This is a bad attempt to get people into church. I am not one for little yellow chicks and fluffy things at Easter, but I don't think this poster is the right message either."



Church leaders fear that the advertisement, reminiscent of the student posters of Che Guevara, will turn people away from the church

Barrister fined for harassing former girlfriend

By Susie Steiner

A SENIOR barrister harrassed a female colleague with phone calls, letters and unsolicited visits in a bid to re-ignite their affair, a court heard yesterday. Justin Webster, who frequently undertook cases for the Crown Prosecution Service, pleaded guilty to harassment charges at Horseferry Crown Court. He now faces disciplinary action from the Bar Council.

The 37-year-old father of three pursued an affair with fellow barrister Bosmath Sheffi, 30, after the pair first met in April 1995. Stephen Hopkins, prosecuting, told the court that after a break-up in May 1996: "Even when Miss Sheffi formed a brief relationship with someone else, he was unrelenting in his pursuit."

The affair continued on and off until February last year. Webster was charged with harrassing Miss Sheffi between February and May 1998.

"He telephoned her hundreds of times at all hours of the day and night and repeatedly wrote her letters . . . it was also occasionally abusive and threatening. It caused her great and obvious distress," Mr Hopkins said.

Webster, of Bayswater, London, once made 23 calls to her home within two hours.

"He told her he had left a poisonous character reference about her at two or three sets of chambers which she wanted to join," said Mr Hopkins.

Edward Jenkins, defending, said: "It was a very passionate and difficult relationship . . . He did not ever seek to wreck Miss Sheffi's career."

Magistrate Christopher Pratt fined Webster £1,200 and banned him from contacting Miss Sheffi for two years.

Police facing mystery of murdered boy

By Richard Duce

CHRISTOPHER SWALES was a 15-year-old boy with everything to live for. He was popular at school and expected to do well in his forthcoming exams.

Since his battered body was found on Sunday partially buried on a beach at the Lincolnshire resort town of Skegness, police have been facing murder mystery. They have no clues as to how he came to be there. Their main lead is the receipts found on his clothing, which indicate that he spent some of the Saturday night before at a nightclub called The Street.



Christopher Swales: body partially buried

At the Earl of Scarborough School, which Christopher attended, pupils returned from their Christmas holidays to be told of his murder. Some have been counselled by teachers.

Steven Elliott, head teacher, said yesterday: "This really takes your breath away. I remember Chris laughing just before Christmas and now we have to get used to the fact that we're not going to see him again."

Mr Elliott said that Christopher was a bright, popular boy with a wide circle of friends. He was studying for ten GCSEs and teachers expected him to get some of the best results in the school.

It is understood that he had been staying with friends over the New Year weekend so his family did not consider him to be missing. Security video footage from the nightclub and tapes from cameras around the town centre have been collected for examination by detectives. Detective Superintendant Nick Howard, the officer leading the inquiry, said: "I would appeal to anyone who knows Christopher and saw him on Saturday evening or Sunday morning to contact the police as soon as possible."



Police search for evidence on the beach at Skegness

Drink mother had five children in car

By Russell Jenkins

A WOMAN was three times over the drink-drive limit when her car carrying her five young children in the back careered off the road, crashed into a field and turned over.

A police officer found Helen Dargue, 32, of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland, wandering dazed and distressed around the field. Her children were lying on a nearby grass verge. Her 11-year-old daughter had a broken arm and the other four, aged between three and 12, complained of cuts and bruises.

Dargue, who had been drinking with her husband earlier in the day, was placed on probation for 18 months, disqualified from driving for two years and ordered to pay £40 costs by magistrates at Bedlington, Nortumberland, on Monday. She had admitted drink-driving.

The accident happened last November when the Renault Savanna car left the A189 spine road near Cramlington. A policeman found the car on its roof in a farmer's field.

A subsequent breath test showed that Mrs Dargue had 95 millilitres of alcohol in her blood, 60 millilitres above the legal limit. The court was told that that Mrs Dargue was of good character and was extremely sorry for what she had done. It was entirely out of character.

John Lawson, for Dargue, said that she and her husband had been drinking to forget a "great personal loss" that she had suffered some years ago.

A spokeswoman for the Campaign Against Drink Driving suggested that a two-year driving ban was mild punishment for such a "stupid and irresponsible" action.

Driver 'hung head in shame'

Helen Johnstone on boy's admission at death crash scene

A STOLEN Range Rover that crossed the central reservation of a motorway into the path of a minibus, killing three people, was being driven by a 14-year-old schoolboy

A survivor yesterday described how the boy sat with his head bowed, unable to look as emergency services battled to free the crash victims from the wreckage. Alicia Clair, a mother of four, said that he later admitted he had been driving.

Still shaken by the crash, Mrs Clair, 53, described the accident in which two women workmates and the minibus driver died on Monday. "Everybody was talking to each other about what they did on New Year's Eve and we were really happy and cheerful. I remember somebody shouting, 'Oh, my God.' I looked down the aisle of the bus and through the front windscreen and there was a car hurtling towards us."

As she and the three boys in the Range Rover was being treated at the scene, she asked the schoolboy if he had been driving. "He said 'Yes' and just hung his head down in shame, looking at the ground. The driver looked young, but I was so shocked when I found out that he was only 14."

Hampshire Police yesterday confirmed that the Range Rover, which belonged to a friend of the boy's family and had been parked outside his home in Clanfield, was reported stolen on Monday afternoon. The driver and two others, aged 15 and 16, from Petersfield, have been released on police bail until March.

A spokesman said a full investigation would be undertaken by accident investigation officers in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service.

The dead man was yesterday named as Peter Mitchell, 41, a father of two from Bedhampton. It was later revealed that his brother-in-law only learnt while he was comforting his bereaved sister that his fiancée had also died in the crash.

Kevin Vicars, 24, and Ann Williamson, 30, lived in Southsea. Miss Williamson's colleague, Doris Hale, 41, from Portsmouth, also died in the collision which took place on the A3(M).

Violent women attack on quiet

By Hannah Betts

THE popular stereotype of the battered husband as a henpecked weakling takes a knock in a survey today.

Women attack men where and when they are most vulnerable: one third of victims featured in the survey were attacked in their sleep and a quarter kicked in the testicles. One case involved a woman pouring bleach over her sleeping boyfriend's genitals.

The survey shows that angry women can be just as violent as men. Forty per cent used some kind of weapon to compensate for their relative lack of strength: knives were the instrument of choice, but hammers, bottles and stiletto shoes also featured. Seventy six per cent of the male victims were bigger and stronger than the women who abused them. This may also account for the fact that 89 per cent of male victims felt that the police did not take their complaints seriously: only 7 per cent of women abusers were arrested.

The survey was conducted for the Channel 4 documentary series *Dispatches* and the results will be screened tomorrow. It was analysed for the programme by Professor Kevin Browne, of Birmingham University, a consultant to the Home Office on family violence. He said that it "certainly contains some surprises for those who study domestic violence".

Mints get pets out of a hole

By Shirley English

FOR a petshop manager flooded out in the storms that battered Scotland this week, one well-known circular sweet will always be known as "the mint with the vole".

Stuart Sommervill used plastic Super Polo Mint containers as makeshift lifejackets for hamsters and guinea-pigs trapped in his shop in the Ayrshire coast town of Largs.

Mr Sommervill, 31, who runs Beaks 'n' Squeaks, feared for the lives of his smaller pets as the water rose to his waist and threatened to swamp the cages during 80mph gales that battered Scotland on Monday. Unable to open the petshop door because of the force of the water outside, he and his menagerie of rabbits, birds, fish, hamsters and guinea pigs were trapped for three hours.

After lifting some of the cages to higher shelves and realising he could not hold up all the pets at once, Mr Sommervill spotted a can of foam and about five packets of Super Polos. In a flash of inspiration he seized on the idea of filling the plastic containers with foam and tying them to the little creatures with string to increase their bouyancy if the worst came to the worst.

Mr Somervill and his charges were eventually rescued and yesterday they were safe in the bedroom of his home after attention with a hairdryer.

I'll do it my way, says new man at Dome

Lord Falconer admits Jubilee Line may not be completed in time, reports James Landale


ALAN WELLER

Lord Falconer at the Dome site yesterday: "I don't think anyone can fill Peter Mandelson's boots. I shall just have to do things in my own way"

LORD Falconer of Thoroton yesterday promised to "crack the whip" to get the Millennium Dome ready in time as he visited the site in Greenwich for the first time.

In the first day of his new job as Dome Minister, the peer praised the "immense" work of his predecessor, Peter Mandelson, but insisted that he would do things his way.

He spent the day in a series of briefings, being brought up to date on the progress of the Dome and the work needed to complete the £758 million project on time.

After touring the site, Lord Falconer said it was "very, very impressive", and brushed aside Tory accusations that he had been appointed as a result of his close friendship with Tony Blair. "It's for others to judge what my qualities are," he said. "The Prime Minister thought I was the right man for the job, but only time will tell if he was right."

He added: "I don't think anyone can fill Peter Mandelson's boots. I could never emulate Peter in respect of the work he did for the Dome. I shall just have to do things in my own way."

Asked if he would be the "ringmaster" that the Dome needed, he said: "I don't think it's going to be necessary to crack the whip. But if it is necessary, crack the whip I will."

Although Mr Mandelson was almost obsessive in his support for the Dome and over the last 18 months did much of the work necessary to get the project up and running, Lord Falconer still faces a substantial in-tray.

As the Government shareholder in the New Millennium Experience Company — which runs the day to day work — he will not take operational decisions. But he is responsible for ensuring that the project is completed on time and fulfils all the Government's aims. He will also have to be the public face of the Dome in Government.

Top of his work list is the need to find more private sponsorship. The company has so far secured pledges for £120 million, £30 million short of its target.

As important are the worries about London Underground's new Jubilee Line, which will link the Dome to the centre of the capital. Many fear it will not be ready in time, yet more than 40 per cent of the 12 million expected visitors are forecast to use the line to reach the site. Although the line is the responsibility of the Transport Department, Lord Falconer will spend much time urging his colleagues to make sure that it is completed in time. "We believe it will be, but I don't think there's anybody in the world who can completely guarantee it."

The peer will also have to ensure that the 14 themed "zones" within the Dome are completed on time and fit with the Government's criteria. Ministers stipulated that they should be educational, inspiring, and that they involve the whole country.

A fourth job for Lord Falconer's is what to do with the Dome after the millennium celebrations. Several companies have expressed an interest in turning the Dome into a convention centre, a regional sports centre or a massive leisure complex. Four consortia — including a Hollywood film studio — were yesterday understood to have recently proposed turning the site into a film and television production complex. Lord Falconer and Cabinet Office officials will not consider formal bids until later this month.

Lord Falconer will also have to start preparations for the massive New Year's Eve party at the Dome, which is expected to attract at least 10,000 people.

Until 18 months ago, Charlie Falconer was an anonymous barrister who just happened to be a school friend of the Prime Minister. Enobled and thrust into the Government, he has been equally unknown as Solicitor General, then as Cabinet Office Minister.

Yesterday he took his first steps towards becoming a public figure.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Babysitter on murder charge

A 12-year-old girl has appeared before a youth court in Manchester charged with the murder of a 16-month-old toddler. The girl, who cannot be named, is accused of fatally injuring Molly Adams at the child's home in Crumpsall, Manchester, while babysitting last month. The toddler died in hospital from a fractured skull and brain injuries, but the girl denies that she deliberately harmed her. She was remanded on bail until February 16.

Hoddle divorced

The 19-year marriage of Glenn Hoddle and his wife, Anne, ended yesterday after a court was told that he admitted adultery. The divorce was granted to Mrs Hoddle on the ground that their marriage had irretrievably broken down.

Water firm fined

Anglian Water Services was fined £10,000 for supplying unfit water to Halstead in Essex in December 1977 after a burst main and a drop in a reservoir level. One woman found black water coming from her cold tap.

Gem of a man

Police have praised the honesty of Dave Gilbert, a railway worker who handed in £4,000 worth of stolen jewellery that he found in a bag on the platform of the Maidstone West station in Kent. The haul has been returned to its owners.

Burglary shock

A man returned home the day after his wife's death to find that burglars had broken in and stolen her wedding and engagement rings from a cupboard. George Saul, 80, of Bradford, had been married to Elsie, 79, for 58 years.

Coin identified

An Anglo-Saxon gold coin found near Gloucester has been identified as a *thrysma*. It differs from five similar coins discovered at Crondall, Kent, in 1828 because the letters around the edge are thought to spell out the word Wuneeton.

Runaway couple spotted on train

By Russell Jenkins

THE police hunt for the runaway couple who vanished with their two foster children moved to the tourist areas of North Yorkshire yesterday after they were seen on a scenic steam railway.

Jeffrey Bramley, 34, and his wife, Jennifer, 35, were noticed by a volunteer ticket collector sitting in a railway carriage with the girls. The collector, the Rev Jack Cooper, said that the older girl, five-year-old Jade Bennett, had been screaming and her sister, Hannah, three, appeared restless.

Detectives have been searching for the missing "family" since they disappeared from their home in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, four months ago after the couple's application to become permanent adoptive parents had been turned down.

Mr Cooper, 54, telephoned police on Monday to tell them that he had seen saw a family answering the Bramleys' description on the 1.50pm train from Grosmont, near Whitby, on Saturday. The four travelled through the Esk Valley and across the North York Moors before getting off the train at Pickering, about 15 miles from York, about 3pm.

Mr Cooper said that the children's tantrums had annoyed other train passengers. "The couple seemed inadequate. She was just sitting there watching and he was trying to get them to be quiet but did not seem able to be making much of a job of it. The children looked all right," he said. "The only reason I noticed them was because, quite bluntly, the children were a damned nuisance."

Mr Cooper told the girls a story about how noisy children frightened sheep. This seemed to calm them down but neither of the adults appeared happy about the intrusion.

Detective Sergeant Mark Nicholson, who is leading the search, said that the couple had most likely been living in bed-and-breakfast hotels in the York area, but that police feared they may become desperate as their money began to run out.

Passenger tried to open jet door

By Arthur Leathley, Aviation Correspondent

A DRUNKEN passenger on a transatlantic jet tried to open an exit door at 30,000 feet as cabin crew and other passengers struggled to restrain him.

Witnesses said the man, a 31-year-old Scot, went "berserk", lashing out and injuring a crew member and three passengers. The incident, on board a Continental Airlines flight to Gatwick, was described by police there as one of the worst cases of air rage they had dealt with.

The aircraft's second officer was called from the flight deck to try to subdue the man, who broke free and tried to open the rear door. Although locking systems and pressurised cabins should make it impossible to open an exit door in flight, any threat to do so can be deemed an offence.

Action intended to endanger life is among the most serious offences under aviation law. It carries a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment and a £5,000 fine.

Police at Gatwick were alerted as the aircraft, flying from Newark, New Jersey, approached the airport on Monday night. By the time it had landed staff had managed to subdue the man and secure him to his seat using handcuffs, which are carried by most airlines on long-haul flights.

A man was released on bail by Sussex police last night.

Doctors cleared of killing cancer boy

Mother attacks decision to drop case, write Tim Jones and Alex O'Connell

TWO senior doctors were cleared yesterday of the manslaughter of a 12-year-old cancer victim as an Old Bailey judge condemned Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children for a "chapter of accidents and misunderstandings".

Richie William, who had been given a 75 per cent chance of surviving chemotherapy, died in agony five days after a drug was injected into his spine instead of a vein.

Charges against John Lee, 34, a specialist registrar in paediatric anaesthetics, and Dermot Murphy, 34, a registrar in haematology, were withdrawn after an important prosecution witness changed his mind over their degree of culpability.

After the decision, the boy's mother, Dolores William, 37, who is pursuing a civil claim for damages, said: "Instead of helping him to recover from his illness, Richie was injected with a drug that killed him. We expect hospitals to help to cure our children, not give them treatment that kills."

Mrs William, of Catford, southeast London, who has two older daughters, added: "We are still devastated by the way Richie died. He suffered a great deal of pain in the days before his death because of the negligent treatment he received. The doctors never personally apologised to me, Richard's dad or his sister. It would go a long way."

The Crown Prosecution Service had relied on the evidence of a prosecution witness, Alan Aitkenhead, in its decision to press charges against the two men. At first, Professor Aitkenhead stated that Dr Lee's conduct over the injection had fallen "seriously and significantly below that which could be demanded of him".



Delores and Richie William, who died aged 12

Later Professor Aikenhead, Professor of Anaesthetics at Nottingham University, decided that significant failures in the system operated by the hospital at the time had greater responsibility than he had first thought.

As a result, the CPS was advised to drop the prosecution because it was unlikely to secure a conviction. Yesterday the two men were found not guilty by the Recorder of London, Judge Michael Hyam.

Richard Horwell, for the prosecution, said that, at the time of the incident, in July 1997, Richie was in his 14th week of intensive treatment and was about to have his last course of chemotherapy. Mr Horwell told the court that there had been a number of failures that had led to the boy's death. Before the fatal injection, the boy had eaten a biscuit while at Lewisham Hospital, which meant he had to wait six hours before he could receive a general anaesthetic at Great Ormond Street. By the time his fast had ended, the senior registrar who was due to administer the chemotherapy was off duty.

His case was taken over by Dr Lee, a specialist registrar in paediatrics and anaesthetics, who had never administered chemotherapy into the spine. Mr Horwell said one of the two drugs used, Vincristine, could be taken only intravenously and, if injected into the spine, invariably proved fatal.

At Great Ormond Street, Richie, instead of being admitted to the Lion Ward, which specialised in such treatment, was taken to the more general Nuffield Ward. From there, a nurse wrongly sent Vincristine to the operating theatre in spite of a rule that stated it should never be allowed in. Mr Horwell said: "If it had not been sent to the theatre, Richie would not have died."

Robert Greighton, the hospital's chief executive, said the two doctors had been suspended and would now be subject to an inquiry. Its conclusions would be sent to the General Medical Council, which would review their position.

A spokesman for Great Ormond Street said it had taken steps to improve communication and clinical procedures.





Dr Lee, left, and Dr Murphy, from Great Ormond Street, were cleared of manslaughter at the Old Bailey yesterday

Pair must wait to know fate

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE two Great Ormond Street doctors will continue to be suspended from duty until the case has been studied by an NHS tribunal. Only if they are cleared by the tribunal will they be able to resume their specialised jobs.

If they are found guilty by the tribunal, the case may be referred to the General Medical Council to decide whether they should be struck off the medical register, but that is unlikely to happen now they have been cleared by the courts.

Peter Tomlin, secretary of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists, which champions the cause of suspended doctors, said that the continuing suspension was another example of the "unfair double jeopardy" faced by members of the profession. He has a report out tomorrow looking at the cases of 201 practitioners suspended over the past 13 years. It shows that the average cost of successfully prosecuting one doctor is £2.5 million.

"Only one doctor in six of those who are suspended is ever found to have been in the wrong, yet someone who is suspended without justification can have a career ruined after spending years waiting for the NHS to make up its mind," he said.

"An innocent person loses his income, has a reputation smeared and yet has no recompense. The longer the case, the worse the injustice, and some cases can drag on for years without a result."

Scientists discover cancer protector

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A WAY of making cancer cells commit suicide has been developed by scientists who believe the discovery could lead to a new generation of drugs to tackle the disease.

A team from Brunel University in West London, has found a way of neutralising the enzyme that protects cancer cells from the natural ageing process that destroys normal cells.

Robert Newbold, who led the research, said: "An international race to find this natural inhibitor has been running for many years and this latest discovery has really put British scientists a step ahead."

Normally, old or damaged cells stop dividing and self-destruct in order to prevent any mutations being duplicated and growing into tumours. However, cancer cells contain an enzyme called "telomerase" which overrides this natural process, so they ignore the self-destruct messages and continue to multiply indefinitely.

Reporting the findings in today's issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Professor Newbold says they have now discovered a way of switching off the enzyme so that the normal process takes over. The next stage will be to find ways to mimic the group of genes that effectively control the natural ageing process of cells. It is hoped this will lead to the synthetic production of drugs to block telomerase and halt the growth of tumours.

Warning after more meningitis deaths

By A Correspondent

HEALTH experts warned the public to be vigilant for the symptoms of meningitis after two more deaths from the disease were confirmed yesterday.

At least nine deaths from meningitis have been reported over Christmas and the new year, with most of the victims children or teenagers.

The Meningitis Trust said: "Sadly, the reports we are seeing are pretty typical. December or early January are the peak times for meningitis cases. You might see an increase from the average 38 cases a week to around 70 cases."

Meningitis can be passed from one person to another by sneezing, coughing or kissing. The trust spokeswoman said the increase in colds over the winter months made people especially vulnerable. "It's important people are vigilant at this time of year. They need to be alert for the signs of meningitis and contact a doctor as soon as symptoms appear."

It was confirmed yesterday that a five-month-old boy from Dinas Powys, near Cardiff, had died in Cardiff's University Hospital from the serious meningococcal strain. A 42-year-old woman, from Taff's Well, near Cardiff, died in East Glamorgan Hospital.

Symptoms of meningitis include severe headache, vomiting, joint and muscle pains and an aversion to bright light. A rash that does not disperse under pressure indicates meningococcal septicaemia, the most dangerous form.

The Thatcher theory of women's success

Study shows female managers go to great lengths to appear more macho than men, writes **Alexandra Frean**

WOMEN who succeed as managers do not do so because of their feminine characteristics, such as sensitivity and warmth. According to new research, they do well because they adopt an aggressive, macho personality.

A four-year study of the psychological make-up of more than 1,200 managers has found that the basic differences between the sexes in the general population are largely non-existent among managers. The survey contradicts claims this week by the style writer Peter York, who said his own studies had found that women managers displaying motherly qualities were more successful.

Tuvia Melamed, an occupational psychologist and senior consultant for the recruitment consultancy Capita Ras, who conducted the research, said that women managers not only had to behave like their male colleagues to succeed, but also frequently had to be tougher and meaner.

"Gender matters very little," he said. "What characterises managers most is that they are tough-minded, macho and socially bold. Many of the women we studied said they felt they had to be more like a man than men. Forget about the caring, sharing Nineties and political correctness. That just does not work — toughness does."

The findings, presented at a British Psychological Society conference in Blackpool yesterday, fly in the face of current management theory, which holds that women should be given a fast track to promotion because the supposedly inherent female abilities to communicate well, work as a team, nurture relationships and to care and share can enhance business performance.

Although the number of women managers has risen dramatically — from 2 per cent in 1973 to 18 per cent in 1998 — some larger companies have launched affirmative action programmes to speed up the pace of change. BT has appointed a "gender champion" to promote equal opportunities within the company; Shell has pledged to increase the number of senior women managers from 4 per cent to 20 per cent over five years.

The practical implications of Dr Melamed's research are far-reaching and raise serious questions about the relevance of setting such quotas for numbers of female managers.

The survey is based on interviews with 294 female and 949 male managers, whose personalities were then analysed and compared with gender norms for the general population. The interviews took place between 1993 and 1997.

Dr Melamed found that, while many women managers had a "built-in tendency" to behave like men — what he described as "the Margaret Thatcher phenomenon" — many had to work very hard at putting on their macho act. This could make it difficult for companies to retain female executives for any length of time.

"A lot of women said they had difficulties with having to act tough and there was a higher level of stress among women managers than men," Dr Melamed said. "A lot of women said that it frequently made them question what they were doing with their lives and wonder if they should be doing something else."

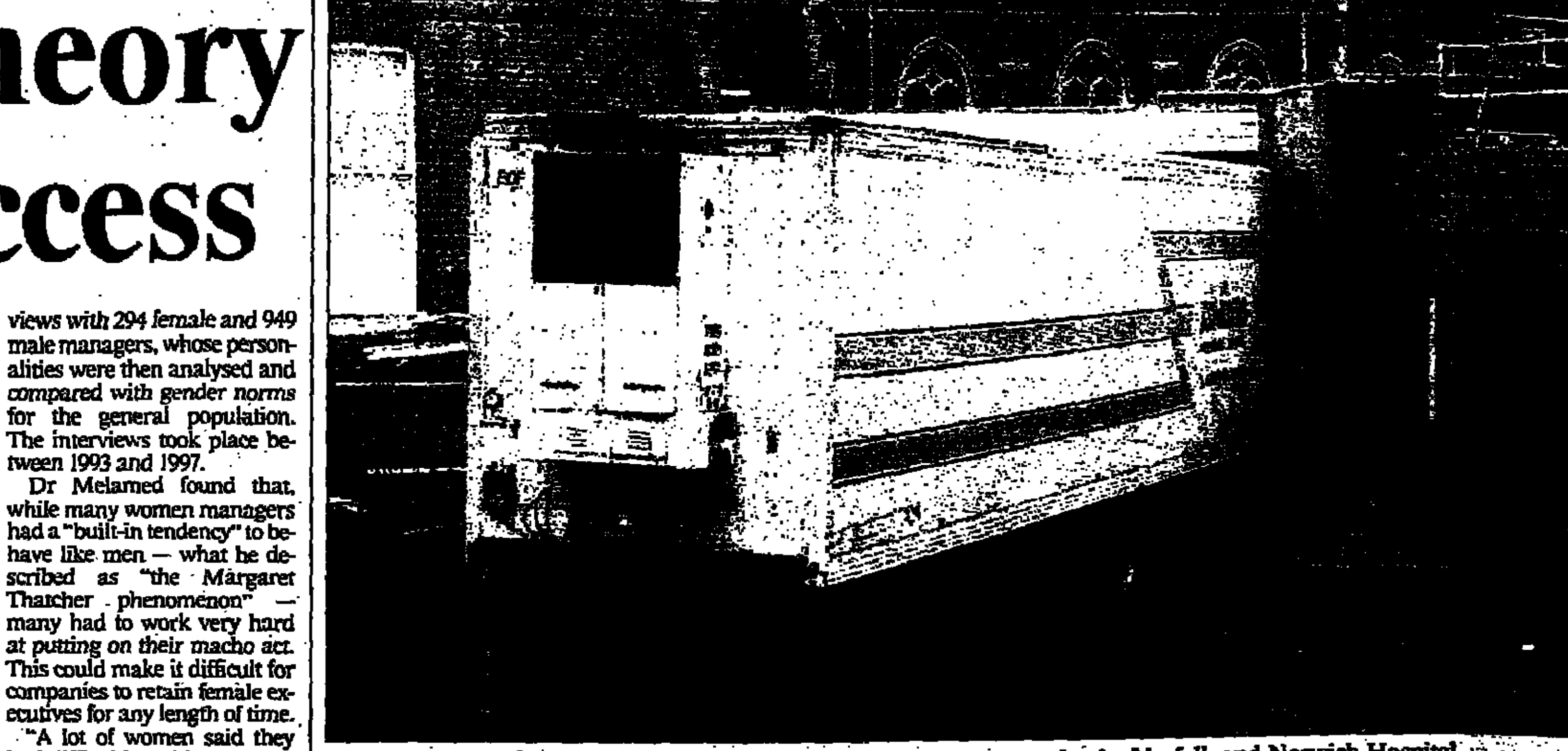
Equal opportunities campaigners described Dr Melamed's research as unhelpful. Ann Chant, director of Opportunity 2000, the national campaign started in 1991 to increase the quality and quantity of women's participation in the workforce, said: "Our campaign research and our own member companies' experience shows that it is absolutely not the case that women have to behave like men to succeed. Women and men have very different styles, each of which can be very valuable. Surely a mix of styles is the most valuable."

NET LINKS

http://www.capitagroup.com Capita Ras site
http://www.bitc.org.uk/opportunity2000/index.htm Opportunity 2000 site
http://www.bps.org.uk The British Psychological Society

TIDY DESK SHOWS A NEGATIVE MIND

People who spend a lot of time arranging the objects on their desks to ensure that they are "just right" before they start work are neither lazy or sick, but are victims of negative avoidance syndrome. Robert Briner, a lecturer in occupational psychology at Birkbeck College, London, said that, when workers procrastinated or spent excessive time on relatively easy tasks rather than tackle more difficult or larger tasks, it was usually because they were trying to avoid being told off or being embarrassed in front of colleagues. Mr Briner suggests in a study that managers should try to identify the specific negative outcome that employees are trying to avoid and redesign their jobs to include more positive goals.



The refrigerated lorry being used as a temporary mortuary by the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital

Dobson fears NHS could not cope with flu epidemic

Warning as hospital hires mobile mortuary, reports **Ian Murray**

FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, admitted yesterday that the National Health Service would find it difficult to cope with a flu epidemic.

He spoke as one hospital admitted that the current outbreak had forced it to hire a refrigerated lorry to store the dead because the 80 body refrigerators in its mortuary were full.

However, while hospitals in all areas but the South and West were reporting serious winter pressures and cancelling all but urgent operations, the outbreak is still far from reaching epidemic proportions. New figures due out, possibly today, are expected to show an increase in numbers of flu victims, but they will still be well below the official epidemic level of 400 cases per 100,000 people seen by doctors in a week.

Mr Dobson admitted that the NHS was under severe pressure. Staff were at full stretch, doing an excellent job of handling high numbers of cases, he said, but, if there were an epidemic, "it would be very difficult to cope".

A diesel-powered mobile cold store has been fitted out for the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital with racks for 36 bodies. It is expected to be needed for at least another two weeks to cope with an unusually high number of deaths, particularly among frail, elderly people, who are especially susceptible to flu. The hospital, which has cancelled all non-emergency operations to make the maximum number of beds available for flu patients, has been warned that eight out of ten families in the Norfolk area are likely to develop flu, cold or cough symptoms this winter.

The holiday period has made the situation worse because fewer funerals have taken place. Peter Moffat, spokesman for the hospital, said: "The rise in the number of deaths coincided with fewer funeral directors arriving at the hospital to collect bodies for burial and cremation. We ran out of capacity in our mortuary so we had to bring in a temporary mobile refrigerated unit to help with cold storage."

Malcolm Stamp, chief executive of the hospital trust, said: "The public can be assured that the deceased are treated with the utmost respect by our staff, who are working under extreme pressure. The hospital has a purpose-built room for relatives and friends to view bodies and all families will receive the same level of service."

As the number of cases begins to rise, many other hospitals have taken the precaution of cancelling all but emergency operations. Among those doing so is New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, where many staff have been working double shifts throughout the holiday, and all hospitals in the Sandwell Health Authority area in the West Midlands. Walsall Manor Hospital had 278 emergency admissions over four days, 100 more than on the same week a year ago.

However, in the North West of England, things are improving. A spokesman for the regional health authority said: "It is still extremely busy, with a lot of sickness about, but the severe pressure of last week does appear to be easing."

Mr Dobson yesterday gave details of the 2,200 schemes for handling winter pressures that will be funded by the £159 million announced in November. Many focus on helping the frail and elderly and include funding for community nurses and emergency response teams.

Blood stocks at record low

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRRSPONDENT

STOCKS of blood held by the National Blood Authority are at a dangerously low level, with supplies of O group — the most common — lower than at any time since the creation of the authority in 1993.

For the first time the authority has taken television advertising in an attempt to attract the donors it needs to provide the 10,000 units of blood that are needed every day. At present it holds only 14,832 units — less than 1½ days' supply — and demand is outstripping supply. Reserves fell by 2,500 units in the 24 hours up to yesterday morning.

The shortage of O-group supplies is particularly worrying. Although 46 per cent of the population needs this group, there are only 3,098 units in the available stocks. Supplies of O-group negative, which 7 per cent of the population has, are down to 797 units.

The £1 million television advertising campaign comes as the latest figures show that less than 6 per cent of the eligible population (3.5 million people) gives blood. Supplies of blood keep for up to a month, and most hospitals have a small stock. But unless new donors are found quickly, operations will have to be cancelled.

Villagers save their green from bulldozers

Helen Johnstone on campaign that raised £350,000 in just over a year



Katie Eastaugh, left, with other members of the Kingsland Millennium Green Trust, which raised £350,000 to buy the village green from developers

VILLAGERS have saved a medieval green from development after their campaign, backed by the Prince of Wales, raised the £350,000 needed to buy it in just over a year.

Residents in Kingsland, Herefordshire, which has a population of 1,000 and dates from the 7th century, were incensed at plans for 13 houses and parking for 34 cars, obstructing views of the adjoining 12th-century castle and 13th-century church.

They sold everything from marmalade to manure to raise the £350,000, which they reached with the aid of a bank loan of £94,000 and interest-free loans totalling £120,000. The remainder was raised through events organised by the Kingsland Millennium Green Trust. The Prince donated a set of table mats, which raised £125 at one auction, and the Bishop of Hereford, the Right Rev John Oliver, offered lunch at the House of Lords.

Workmen had already began excavating 600 tonnes of soil from the 1½-acre site when a group of local businesswomen approached the Birmingham-based developers, Beeches Two, with a plan to buy it back for the village. They were given a week to gauge local opinion, which resulted in 98 per cent of residents supporting their plan.

Within 24 hours Patricia Pethercray, 51, organised a public meeting, at which it was agreed to ask the developer to allow a month for a proposal to be put together. She said yesterday: "I'd heard about the plans to put up a housing estate a few weeks earlier, and I was incensed. I thought that the best way to save the green would be to buy it, but I had no idea how to until a local dignatory told me about the Countryside Commission Millenium Fund."

The Countryside Commission backed the project with a grant of £55,000 from the Millennium Green Fund; other donations from environmental trusts totalled £42,000. Jim Langridge, of the Midlands branch of the Countryside Commission, said yesterday: "We had more than 100 applications for grants from the Millennium Green Fund, but we found that this bid was one of the more businesslike and organised. Plus, we couldn't help but be impressed by the villagers' enthusiasm and energy. Normally it takes two to three months to put a bid together, but these ladies did it in a couple of weeks."

Mrs Pethercray, chairman of the trust and an education consultant who has lived in the village for 16 years, said people had been prepared to sit in front of the bulldozers to save the green, one of few remaining green sites within the village. "By October we'd held about 40 fundraising events which raised £12,000, and after seven months we had raised £212,000.

"Prince Charles donated a set of table mats depicting some of his paintings, and a friend at the BBC took four people on a tour of the studios for £320. We're probably the last bastion of old-fashioned rural life in Herefordshire and we want it to stay that way." She added that villagers had to continue fundraising to repay the money owed.

Katie Eastaugh, 31, a trustee, said yesterday: "The green appeared as an orchard on maps going back to the 16th century. We've been told by local historians that the green must have been there since the village was founded."

Stuart Harper, managing director of Beeches Two, said: "I doubted they would succeed in raising that kind of money."

He added: "I take my hat off to them. We've lost a site, but we made an acceptable return."

Viewers like new look of TV news

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

REVAMPED versions of the heavyweight television news programmes, *Newsnight* and *Channel 4 News*, attracted nearly half a million more viewers this week.

BBC2's *Newsnight*, which has been redesigned to give a more viewer-friendly look, improved its ratings from an average 1.1 million to 1.4 million when it unveiled its new image on Monday night. On the same night, *Channel 4 News*, whose set has undergone a facelift that includes purple sofas and orange desks, attracted 900,000 viewers compared with its usual 800,000.

The BBC and ITV both claimed victory in the ratings for news programmes during 1998. Broadcasters' Audience Research Board figures show that the BBC's *Six O Clock News* was the most popular programme, with an average of 5.8 million viewers. ITN's early evening news programme attracted 4.3 million.

However, ITN's *News at Ten*, to be axed in the next few weeks, proved to be the most popular nighly news programme with an average audience of 5.7 million. This compared with 5.2 million for the *Nine O Clock News*.

☐ Vanessa Feltz, who left ITV for the BBC after being refused a salary of £2.5 million, attracted under a million viewers when *The Vanessa Show* was launched on Monday.

Big Brother cleans up 'high-rise slums'

NIGEL HAWKES at the geographers' conference

HIGH-TECH surveillance equipment has helped to rejuvenate some of Britain's worst council tower blocks and may have earned a reprieve for others facing demolition.

Brian McGrail, of the Open University, told the Royal Geographical Society — Institute of British Geographers conference in Leicester yesterday that closed-circuit television cameras had had a remarkable effect on estates in Edinburgh and Glasgow that were once seen as high-rise slums made uninhabitable by criminal tenants. On one Edinburgh estate, Gracemount, which has three high-rise blocks, about 40 per cent of tenants left within a year of the cameras being installed because they were using the flats as a base for crime or benefit fraud. However, the flats were quickly relet to more law-abiding tenants, including hard-to-let ground-floor flats, which had been boarded up.

"These blocks were the worst I had seen" said Dr McGrail, who carried out the research as part of an Economic and Social Science Research Council programme measuring the effects of information technology on society.

"There were graffiti, broken glass and rubbish everywhere. The lifts had been neglected, and the area around the blocks was ugly. When I was last there, in August, everything had changed. Aesthetically it looked a lot better, as the ground floors were let. Previously nobody would live in them. The blocks had been painted, money spent on maintentance, and the tenants were happier."

The technology that makes such changes possible include closed-circuit television cameras, which feed pictures to a concierge, who can also monitor the comings and goings of the tenants by records made every time they use their keys; and a direct link from every flat to the concierge by fibre-optic cable so that tenants can make immediate contact if problems arise.

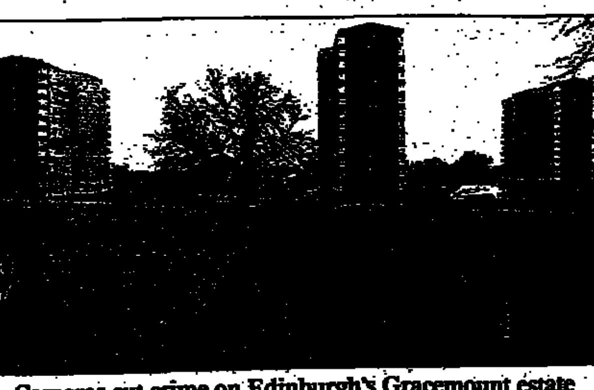
The monitoring of movement soon makes it clear if any tenants are not actually living in their flats, but merely using them as "Giro drops", postal addresses for Giro cheques to which they are not entitled. It can also indicate whether a tenant is ill and has not left the block for several days.

"The majority of tenants are in favour of the changes," Dr McGrail said. "Those who aren't have left. Those who live there now say they feel more secure, are more willing to chat to neighbours or get into lifts with strangers."

Most of Britain's tower blocks were built between 1955 and 1974, but disenchantment with them set in in the 1980s. With many planners feeling that that the social problems that plagued many of them were incurable, demolition seemed the only option. Some have been knocked down, but the cost of demolition — about £500,000 per block — is often prohibitive.

"Housing departments are reluctant to spend that sort of money when it could be used for the direct benefit of other tenants," Dr McGrail said. Tower blocks are also expensive to run, costing more than they produce in rents, so selling them to private developers is seldom an option.

Dr McGrail believes that the benefits of surveillance technology are such that many tower blocks could now be kept in use for another 30 years or so. While never likely to be the Utopia that some architects envisaged, he said, they did have a future.



Cameras cut crime on Edinburgh's Gracemount estate

Pitfalls of flexible hours

FLEXIBLE working patterns, which the Government sees as the key to preserving family life, result in people seeing less of their families than before, the conference was told.

Diane Perrons, of the London School of Economics, studied patterns of work in supermarkets for the European Commission and found that, while flexible working gave many advantages to employers, reducing overtime payments and National Insurance costs, the benefits to those employed were less apparent.

On the positive side, it gave women an opportunity to get into the labour force, with working hours that enabled them to look after their children. The drawback was that parents never had any time to spend together. "One comes home and the other goes off," Dr Perrons said.

Ice Age may be 50,000 years late

MANMADE global warming may postpone the arrival of the next Ice Age, the conference was told. Instead of ice spreading down across Scotland and the North of England within the next 55,000 years, the deep freeze may be delayed for a further 50,000 years or more, Paul Burgess, of the University of East Anglia, said.

The ice will certainly come, however, as a result of changes in the Earth's orbit, tilt and precession — the process by which the seasons shift slowly over time.

Using a computer model developed at the University of Louvain in Belgium, Mr Burgess and his colleagues Jean Palutikof and Clare Goodess combined these long-term cycles with the burning of fossil fuels, which produces the carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming.

Mr Burgess said that, using carbon dioxide levels found in ice cores, the model correctly identified the extent of the last glacial maximum, when ice spread over Scotland and much of northern England and Wales.

Given natural levels of carbon dioxide, the model predicts a similar ice coverage in 55,000 to 60,000 years. Factoring in manmade global warming at moderate levels delays the growth of ice, but when growth starts it is much swifter and a complete glaciation is achieved on the same timescale.

Only if extreme global warming is assumed is there any delay in glaciation, but it will still occur about 110,000 years from now.



http://www.geog.le.ac.uk Conference programme on the Leicester University Geography Department website.

http://www.rgs.org The Royal Geographical Society - Institute of British Geographers site



A landlord's stalker on the Knoydart estate. The National Lottery rejected its residents' application under present law for money to buy the land

Crofters must use lottery cash to buy lairds' land

SNP says 'cheapskate' changes in Scottish estate law are tailored for urban voters, writes Fraser Nelson

NATIONAL Lottery money is to be used instead of public funds to help Scottish communities to buy estates from their lairds. But they will have to raise most of the money themselves.

The reforms, announced yesterday in Edinburgh, will end almost 900 years of feudalism and will give the Government powers to evict absentee and neglectful landowners. Ministers said the powers are intended as a deterrent and would seldom or never be used.

Crofters will be given first refusal on any land that comes on the market. Lord Sewel, the Scottish Office minister heading the Government's Land Reform Committee, said that communities seeking to buy estates can expect only the new Land Fund, created with lottery money, to top up privately raised money.

However, he said that they would have their task made easier by the proposals. "The money available from the Land Fund will be enough to put the final pieces on a bid. It will not be covered with public funds."

The plans drew criticism from the Scottish National Party, which accused Lord Sewel of a drawing up a "cheapskate" version designed to appeal to urban voters. Rob Gibson, a member of the SNP National Executive, said: "We are talking about people's lives here. We don't think it should be a lottery or be tied in with a lottery; it needs state funds. Labour is obviously not taking the issue seriously."

The lottery commissioners have already rejected four appeals to fund community buyouts: two for the island of Eigg, and for the estates of Knoydart and Abriachan.

The Scottish Landowners Federation, which represents 80 per cent of lairds, attacked plans to evict bad landowners.

Andrew Dingwall-Fordyce, its convener, said: "This is opening up a hornet's nest which will end in the European Court. If the community decides it doesn't like its owner, why should he have his land taken away if he is doing the best he can?"

Lord Sewel said: "These powers will be used very rarely indeed but they have to be there. We didn't have to use nuclear weapons, thank God, but we needed to have them."



Murdo Fraser, Tory spokesman on land reform, said: "The Scottish Office are simply playing old fashioned class-war politics — the lairds are an easy target."

Government officials are to put a price on any large estate that comes on the market. If a community raises enough it will be given the right to buy, even if a rival bidder offers twice as much.

The proposals, which will not become law until passed by the Scottish parliament, which convenes in July, include a register of land ownership, although Lord Sewel admitted that it would not be comprehensive.

Proposals to end tax breaks on estates used for deer stalking and salmon fishing were rejected by the Land Reform Committee as needing "further study", allaying the lairds' greatest fear.

The most surprising decision is that the Government will not buy land on the open market for transfer to smallholders. Originally the committee had indicated it would.

Leading article, page 17

Holiday village may put reform to the test

By Shirley English

OWNERS of holiday homes believe that they could be the first to benefit from compulsory purchase powers outlined by the Government yesterday.

More than 100 families are facing eviction from their wooden chalets at Carbeth Estate, in Stirling, after an 18-month dispute over rent rises imposed by the laird, Allan Barns-Graham.

They are attempting to organise a community buyout of 180 acres of the 1,000-acre estate, although the land is not for sale. If their offer is turned down, they will ask the Government to intervene and buy the land on their behalf as a test case.

The Carbeth huts were built 80 years ago. The laird at that time, also called Allan Barns-Graham, invited local people to construct the simple huts for a nominal ground rent.

The huts, which have no electricity or running water, were passed down through the generations. The owners' right to remain on the estate was enshrined in the old laird's will before he died in 1957. Eighteen months ago his grandson began eviction attempts after the hutters refused to pay a 42 per cent rise in ground rent and service charges, taking the total to about £1,000.

The hutters claim that Mr Barns-Graham wants to price them off the estate to make way for a more lucrative tourist development. Mr Barns-Graham has not commented.

The hutters have won the backing of the Scottish Landowners Federation for their buyout, although it would be likely to object to the use of compulsory purchase. Historic Scotland, the Government's heritage agency, recommended recently that the village be made into a conservation area. Calum MacDonald, Scottish Local Government Minister, has also backed them.

Chris Ballance, Hutters' Association chairman, said Carbeth could be used as a test case if the community offer — which will be made by Easter and financed by a commercial mortgage — was rejected. "The Scottish parliament will need an early test if the legislation is not to be toothless." Mr Ballance said.

Modern vassals labour under the legacy of an ambitious king

By Fraser Nelson

SCOTLAND'S feudal system is the only remaining legacy of David I — an ambitious but ultimately unsuccessful 12th-century monarch.

His attempt in 1138 to invade England and claim the throne for his niece, Matilda, was aborted, but his peculiar rules of land ownership look set to govern his country into the third millennium.

The system he created grants possession of land "from the sky to the centre of the earth" — albeit shared with many other owners under a hierarchy of duty.

The first is God, in Scottish legal theory the head of the feudal structure and the ultimate authority from whom property rights are derived.

Second is the Crown, God's subordinate. The Queen is still the Paramount Superior of Scottish land, and all nobles are her vassals. In theory, they subordinate their property rights to her. Crown Estates owns 94,015 acres of Scotland, and Her Majesty's Government owns a further 10 per cent of the country.

Anyone under the Crown, from the laird to the crofter, is a vassal. A vassal's boss is known as his superior, and retains feudal powers over those to whom they rent or sell land. Today's highest-ranking superiors are the earls who grace society parties in Scotland and London. Their positions were created by the early Scottish kings, who gave land to chiefs of clans and their Anglo-Norman friends in order to consolidate power. In medieval Scotland, the superiors could be stripped of their land at any time, but they could also do the same to their tenants.

Superiors come in three sizes. First are the Great Landlords, who derive most of their wealth and income from the land. The Duke of Buccleuch, who controls a 261,000-acre estate, is one. His family has held the land for generations and he has every interest in conserving it.

Next are the lairds, who are the target of this year's land reforms. After the Battle of Culloden in 1745, land could be sold without permission from the superior. Scotland was, in effect, for sale and relatives of the artistocracy and businessmen from London became lairds by claiming huge chunks of the country.

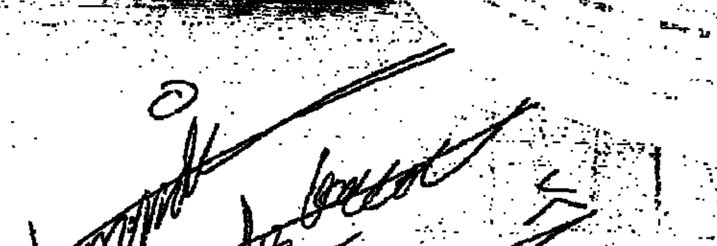
During the following century, many lairds evicted entire communities to make way for sheep, taking advantage of the enormous growth in demand for wool and meat in London. The enduring bitterness over the Highland clearances underpins the land debate in modern Scotland.



David I: established the hierarchy of ownership

At the bottom of the heap lies the tenant, usually a simple smallholder or crofter who lives and works on the land.

Today no superior ever asks for military aid from his vassals, but other feudal rights are still asserted from time to time. One example is, the 6th Earl Granville, the Queen's godson and laird of North Uist. He still has the power to levy royalties on any income from businesses operating on the shores of his Outer Hebridean estate, and invoked his ancient right to tax the collection of seaweed.











Euthanasia claims sow doubt in families' minds

Michael Horsnell and Peter Foster on fears aroused by a police inquiry into the deaths of geriatric patients

FOR ten years, Queenie Smith watched her husband slowly losing his mind. At the end of his long descent into senility, she took comfort from the knowledge that she had done everything she could for him.

She visited Ernest in a psychiatric ward at Kingsway Hospital, Derby, three times a week. On the day he died she was at her 92-year-old husband's bedside, holding his hand as he stared vacantly into space.

But whatever peace of mind she drew from her unwavering devotion was destroyed last year when sinister allegations about the Rowsley psychogeriatric ward appeared in the local press. Nurses at the hospital had claimed that patients on the ward were being allowed to die slowly from hunger and dehydration. Senior colleagues, they alleged, were withdrawing food and water from patients without proper authorisation, leaving them fatally weakened and vulnerable to secondary conditions such as pneumonia.

The implication, according to one source, was that some staff on Rowsley ward were hastening patients to their deaths by placing them on "nil-by-mouth" regimes, claiming that they were at risk of choking. One source at the hospital has claimed that the regime amounted to euthanasia.

The police took the allegations seriously and launched a full investigation in November 1997. For more than a year, a team of eight or nine detectives, some with experience in murder investigations, have been examining medical records and interviewing nurses, doctors and dietitians.

The death certificates of more than 40 patients who died at Kingsway Hospital between October 1993 and summer 1997 have been examined by police, and three nurses have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation, which is expected to be completed by spring.

DERBY

Although all 600 staff at the hospital have been told not to speak about the investigation, it has emerged that, four months before the police inquiries began, the Southern Derbyshire Mental Health Trust had already begun an internal investigation into nursing practices on the ward. The inquiry produced a lengthy "action plan", obtained by *The Times*, which details strict procedures for dealing with patients suspected to be at risk of choking. According to a source close to the investigation, several nurses believed that patients were being placed on nil-by-mouth regimes too often and too early, and some resorted to smuggling in food to help ailing patients.

It is clear from the report that relations among staff broke down as disagreement over the nil-by-mouth practice spread. The introduction to the report concludes: "We hope that trusting relationships can be re-established, but we realise that this will take time." some staff were not reassured and, according to another source, went to police with a list of 15 names.

A source who was among those pressing for a full police investigation said: "You would see patients who came in looking in good shape, but they would have one momentary choking fit and suddenly they were bedridden and going downhill fast. They were given nil by mouth and no drips. It was a painful death, being left to dehydrate slowly."

For 79-year-old Mrs Smith, and several other widows whose husbands were on Rowsley ward, the allegations are almost impossible to believe. All say they found the staff on the ward unfailingly attentive. Whenever she arrived on visits, Mrs Smith recalled, her husband was clean-shaven and immaculately dressed in shirt and tie. The ward itself was refurbished in the early 1990s and had a sitting room, dining area and well-appointed dormitory.

The allegations have, however, left lurking doubts in the minds of some relatives. Nancy Jowett, 81, whose husband, Sidney, a former chief of the Derbyshire Fire Service, died on the ward in February last year, has always supported the staff, but admitted: "When you are not in the [medical] profession you accept what is going on in the wards. We have been living with this for a year. It's terrible. It puts doubts into your mind."

For now, the relatives of those who died on Rowsley ward can only wait for the results of the police investigation. Having placed their trust in the nursing staff, most have only good stories to tell. But after watching their husbands, father or brothers suffer such lingering deaths, the possibility that their trust was cruelly abused is too much to bear.

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Kingsway Hospital, Derby, scene of the investigation



Ernest and Queenie Smith in 1987. She visited him in Kingsway three times a week

While there is life there is hope, insist grieving relatives

KENT

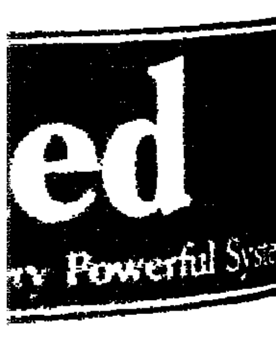
Mary Dalley, 83, was a kindly, outgoing woman who had brought up two children and was much cherished by her grandchildren. She was admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital in, Sidcup, southeast London, in severe pain from a duodenal ulcer caused by diuretics prescribed for osteoarthritis and by aspirin for angina, which she was later found not to have. She died a month later from what her daughter alleges, in a complaint before the General Medical Council, was deliberately induced dehydration after a misdiagnosis of brain damage. Mrs Dalley haemorrhaged so severely from the ulcer while left unattended on a commode for 50 minutes, five days after her admission, that she went into shock and scarcely spoke for a week. Doctors diagnosed brain damage, despite the protests of her daughter, Pat Prange, and the evidence that she had begun to talk in sentences again. Five doctors have been named in the complaint by Mrs Prange, 55. Jackie Andrews, communications manager for Queen Mary's Sidcup Trust, said: "There was a complaint received which was fully dealt with at the time and we went through a full complaints procedure."

SUSSEX

Robert Byatt, 69, was taken to Eastbourne District General Hospital after a stroke on August 11 last year. Four days later he was sitting up in bed, playing cards, laughing, joking, and complaining of being bored, but he had picked up a bladder infection that, according to his wife, was left untreated. With the outside temperature at 30C (86F), a ward notice stipulated that patients should receive two litres of water a day, and Mr Byatt was put on a drip. On August 18, Brenda Byatt was told that he had had a second stroke. She said: "I found him thrashing around in bed. He had septicaemia and had a grand mal convulsion. Septicaemia had affected his kidneys, heart, lungs and circulation. He was given drugs to calm him." Intravenous fluid was withdrawn on August 22, according to her records, and she estimates that, during his 18-day illness, he received a third of the fluids he should have had. Mr Byatt died on August 28 after a chest infection, and police are now investigating his death. Kate Row, a spokeswoman for Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "At no time was fluid or nutrition withdrawn from Mr Byatt, or limited in any way."

STOCKPORT

Joan Kenny, 71, had a stroke after the death of her husband in 1987. She was a lively woman with a fine sense of humour and, with the help of a walking frame and carers, managed to get about. After living for 14 months at a nursing home near Stockport, she had a major stroke from which she never recovered consciousness. She died six days later, on January 16, 1996. Despite the pleas of her youngest sister, Patricia Wise, she was denied intravenous fluid during those last few days. Two days after the stroke, Mrs Wise asked the matron if her sister could be put on a drip as she was dehydrated. She was told that might be possible, only for the doctor to say it was not. On the fourth day of her illness, according to Mrs Kenny's daughter, Lynda, her mother had tried to speak to her on 14 occasions. Mrs Wise said: "My feeling is that, even if she was terminally ill, she should have been put on a drip. It's not exactly a complicated procedure ... While there is life there is hope." She complained to Stockport Health Authority, but the doctor was found not to be in breach of his terms of service. Mrs Wise lost an appeal to the Health Services Appeal Authority.









Cohn-Bendit: "Aided suspected terrorist"

Euro-MP 'may face charge'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE former Sixties student leader Daniel Cohn-Bendit, 53, who heads the *French Greens'* list of candidates for June's European elections, may face a legal *investigation* for allegedly aiding a fugitive.

Hans Joachim Klein, *suspected of helping the* terrorist Carlos the Jackal (Ilich Ramírez Sánchez), was arrested *in France in* August after 20 years on the run and faces extradition to Germany.

Herr Cohn-Bendit, 53, now a German Euro-MP, has admitted providing him with assistance. Prosecutors in Frankfurt plan to apply to have his parlia*mentary immunity* lifted, a necessary precursor to any investigation.

Germans urge 'aloof' Britain to join euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITAIN should get off its "high horse" and join the euro, according to the German press, echoing the confidence of the Bonn Government that the Blair Administration will sign up for the single European currency sooner rather than later.

The sentiment was clear in both the tabloid and the broadsheet press, but it was expressed with a curious lip-curling contempt by the mass-circulation *Bild* newspaper which has in the past entertained its own doubts about the euro.

"The British in their fine pinstripes did not want to get their hands dirty while we were *toiling away on the* construction of the euro," said the newspaper's main economics *commentator.* "Our pound is staying out, they said with stiff upper lip."

Now Britain had to *make its* choice: "The pound is losing ground against the euro, companies cannot plan ahead, their stock looks shaky. Big capital, behaving like a tree full of ravens, is fluttering out of the island and billions are leaving London in the direction of euroland."

The British had climbed proudly on their high horse, the paper declared, but now they should dismount.

These seemed to be rather strong conclusions to draw on the basis of one day's euro trading. By German, though not of course by British, tabloid standards, this was tough talk. *But even the shrewd commen*tator of *Handelsblatt*, Germany's sober business daily, was calculating that Britain would have to jump much quicker than expected.

"Caught between the two huge blocks of the euro and the dollar, the British econ*omy (which reacts sensitively* to exchange rates) could soon lead to a hasty and spontan*eous British entry into the Eu*ropean monetary union," the paper said.

The Stuttgart Zeitung, usually well informed on finance ministry affairs, said: "Lon*don is isolated.*" *Above all*, it said: "British industry runs the risk of falling behind in the future race for investment ... even if the new currency proves to be soft and prone to crisis this will not help Britain, because a weak euro would mean a tangible increase in the value of the pound and *worse export opportunities for* British businesses ... every day the pressure grows to give up the senseless opposition."

To some degree, these comments reflect the triumphalism of a good start and relief that the beginning of the euro was not a fiasco. But they also revealed the mood of Gerhard Schröder's Government — and above all of Oskar Lafontaine, his Finance Minister — who are convinced that Britain will not be able to resist the pressure of events in continental Europe.

Some nervousness about the future evolution of the Europe*an economy* could be detected yesterday. Heiner Flassbeck, Herr Lafontaine's right-hand *man at the Finance Ministry*, said he was satisfied with the smooth start of the euro. But *he was far from optimistic* about Europe's overall economic prospects.

A strong economic downturn in Europe would, he said, lead to higher unemployment. *Domestic consumption had to* be encouraged in order to boost the economy, he said, adding that no attempt should be made to increase state expenditure.

Leading article, page 17

BOB EDME / AP



Bathers enjoy a walk in the sun yesterday at Biarritz in southwest France, where temperatures topped *70F* (20C). Paris recorded a January record of *59F* (16C), but *farmers* were anxious over their crops and ski resort owners were praying for snow

Nuclear waste 'to bankroll Lebed campaign'

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

WITH a year to go until Rus*sian presidential elections* if Boris Yeltsin sees out his full term, it has been suggested *that Aleksandr Lebed*, the gruff Governor of Krasnoyarsk, might be attempting to raise money for his campaign by insisting that his Krasnoyarsk Gubernatorial Foundation be the mediator through which Ukraine would pay Russia for the disposal of nuclear waste.

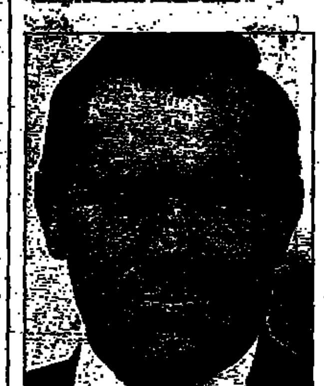
Segodnya newspaper reports, in an article called *The Temptation of Nuclear Profits, that* $69 *million* (£40 *mil*lion) allocated by the Ukrainian Government for the storage *and processing* of *waste* in the Krasnoyarsk area has gone missing. The money, to *be precise, probably never* existed because Atomenergo Resource, the Ukrainian mediating company, *is supposed to* pay a mere 15 per cent of the sum due in cash.

Mr *Lebed* complains *that* the goods, services and IOUs that make up the rest of the payment always arrive late and never in full.

The agreement is *that* the Zheleznogorsk iron ore *processing* factory in Krasnoyarsk accepts 250 tonnes of nuclear waste per year at a fee of *$275 per kilo.* "By recycling one kilogram of used nuclear fuel, one can earn up to *$1,000,*" Yevgeni *Adamov* told deputies of the Krasnoyarsk territorial legislative assembly yesterday, suggesting *that there is an urgent need* to bring payments into line with the rest of the world.

Mr Lebed has elected to hold Ukraine to ransom on the issue and is refusing to accept any more nuclear waste until the debt is paid at a reasonable rate.

He also insists that his foundation must mediate in the affair, according to information obtained by *Segodnya*. As the waste *piles up*, experts agree that a concentration of nuclear material can result in "*unpleasant incidents*".



Lebed: chose to hold Ukraine to ransom

Goggle box drives ape family apart

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

A *TELEVISION*, intended to provide help for an orang-utan couple in St Petersburg Zoo, has turned them into telly *addicts*, the *Moscow Times* reported yesterday.

Monika and Rabu had *failed to be model parents* to their male baby, Ramon, so a Samsung executive, himself a new father, gave *the set in the* hope that educational videos might teach the orang-utans how to care for their offspring.

Rabu, the family's patriarch, has become so obsessed with the television which *hangs outside his cage that he* has started to ignore his mate, who in turn is feeling rejected and *miserable. Zoo officials* have now curtailed viewing hours, in the hope that Rabu will regain *his attentive nature* and that Monika will resume her painting career, cast aside in favour of the box.

Aleksandr Karpov, chief psychologist at the Russian Ministry of Health, admitted that any addiction to a lifeless object "can easily result in a strong separation from reality". He added that anyone *who spends* a disproportionate amount of time watching television or playing computer *games is likely to cut himself* off from communication with others, including his own family, and he *may become* a *defec*tive personality with one-sided development.

Rabu arrived in St Petersburg from Antwerp Zoo in 1997 and he and Monika had their offspring on November 20. *However, being reared in* captivity both parents had lost the nurturing instincts neces*sary to raise their baby,* so he was removed to an incubator where he was fed and looked after by zoo staff.

The zoo plans to appeal to American primate centres for help. It also hopes to bring in human mothers to demonstrate their skills to the hapless orang-utan.

هكذا من الأصل

Cook cash for war on rebels in Sierra Leone

London backs Freetown regime with extra £1m to Nigerian-led force, writes Michael Binyon

BRITAIN yesterday announced that it was giving an extra £1 million to support the Nigerian-led forces fighting the rebels in Sierra Leone. The money will pay for lorries, communications and logistical back-up, but not for arms.

The Foreign Office's announcement came as Nigerian warplanes killed more than 200 rebels threatening Freetown, the capital. On Sunday Alpha jets in service with the Ecomog intervention force attacked a mountain cave hide-out near Hastings, on the outskirts of Freetown, killing at least 100 fighters from the Revolutionary United Front and the ousted junta. Planes were also in action north of the capital and Ecomog troops retook control of the nearby town of Port Loko.

Britain's aid package is part of its commitment to bolster the shaky Government of President Kabbah, restored last year with the help of arms and private forces provided by Sandline International, the mercenary group.

The defeated junta, which fled into the bush, maiming and terrorising civilians, has joined forces with the RUF and during the past two weeks has made sweeping gains, threatening the capital and the Government.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that there was no longer any arms embargo on the Sierra Leone Government, following the modification by the United Nations of an earlier blanket embargo. But Britain still operates an arms embargo on Nigeria, which provides the bulk of the Ecomog forces.

Given the tight Foreign Office budget, the military aid is considerable and follows the £2 million already paid to a United Nations Trust Fund supporting Ecomog. The total, larger than most British humanitarian packages, reflects Britain's determination to keep in office a democratic Government that has already caused Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, considerable embarrassment over the Sandline affair. Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, said that the aid was "a demonstration of our commitment to help bring stability to Sierra Leone and promote democracy both in that country and more widely in Africa".

On Monday, Nigerian troops, backed by Sierra Leonean civilian militia, beat back a rebel attempt to enter Freetown via Hastings. The rebel force of more than 1,000 men had reached the eastern city gates, and Ecomog sources said many were infiltrators in civilian clothes who had slipped past Hastings.

The rebels split into two groups after the first attack, one comprising renegade soldiers from the Sierra Leone Army and the other made up of RUF fighters who have been harrying successive Governments for more than five years.

Insurgents still control most of the north of the country, and have conscripted thousands of able-bodied men and women, training them to fight. A systematic campaign of mutilation, hacking off the arms and legs of captured civilians, has left many villagers terrified of the rebels and unable to resist them. Those fleeing to Freetown have reported summary executions of people the rebels consider sympathetic to the Kabbah Government.

A Rome-based Catholic news agency yesterday reported that one of the leaders of the ousted junta, Solomon Anthony James Musa, was killed in the recent fighting. He was the de facto Prime Minister of the junta which seized power in May 1997 and was ousted last February.

The rebel forces were swiftly pushed back after President Kabbah was reinstated. But they regrouped and launched a new campaign after their leader, Freddy Sankoh, was sentenced to death for treason in October. In prison in Freetown, he is appealing against the sentence.

The upsurge in fighting threatens to unleash a new wave of refugees, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Tuesday. A spokesman said that more than 100 refugees have fled into neighbouring Guinea over the past few days. But 5,800 more people in the border area of Kambia are poised to follow suit if clashes between rebels and the intervention force continue. An estimated 350,000 people are displaced within Sierra Leone.

TIM ZIELENBACH / AP



President Mugabe, angered by his treatment in London, is now calling for seizure of farms owned by absentee lords. "They will lose their little Englands," he said

Mugabe wants to grab 'lands of British lords'

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE has promised to seize farms owned by absentee British aristocrats and says he will pay with an IOU.

"Those British lords who have their little Englands and are absentee landlords will lose their little Englands," he was quoted as saying yesterday in the state-controlled *Herald* newspaper. Compensation was the responsibility of the British Government, the colonisers of what was formerly Rhodesia, he said.

But Mr Mugabe, whose Government last month confiscated 841 white-owned farms in Zimbabwe, is talking about an era long past. The big landowners, such as the Salisbury, Cranborne and Cecil families, sold their holdings around independence in 1980 and left.

The President, still smarting from his visit to London last month where the media denounced him as a tyrant, also made ominous references to the estimated 400 British companies in Zimbabwe. They controlled "a large portion" of the economy, and every year sent millions of pounds in profits to Britain.

British companies should give shares in their Zimbabwean businesses to black Zimbabweans, as part of the Government's plan to "indigenise" the economy, he said. Black empowerment in Zimbabwe has become synonymous with cronyism and corruption, where the conspicuous wealth of the friends and relatives surrounding Mr Mugabe continues to swell in contrast to the widespread poverty and crumbling infrastructure that affects the rest of the country.

Mr Mugabe said Britain ought to be supporting his land reform and black empowerment programmes, instead of "leading the bandwagon of criticism and malicious statements" aimed at tarnishing the country's image abroad.

Law chief says police injured Anwar

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN KUALA LUMPUR

Anwar: The police "fully responsible for attack"

MALAYSIAN police inflicted the injuries on Anwar Ibrahim, the former Deputy Prime Minister, that drew international condemnation after his detention, the authorities admitted yesterday.

A statement by Mohtar Abdullah, the Attorney-General, was released as Mr Anwar's corruption trial was told that semen stains on a mattress being used in evidence against him could have been planted.

Mr Mohtar said that he had found the police "fully responsible" for injuries suffered by Mr Anwar in September, when the former leader was in police custody. But the person responsible had not been identified. Mr Mohtar's statement, reported by the Bernama news agency, added that medical reports indicated that he had suffered some of his injuries before he was arrested.

Mr Anwar was dismissed on September 2 and arrested 18 days later. He had a black eye when produced for his first court appearances and said he had been beaten unconscious on his first night in custody.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Millennium unit set up by Israel

Jerusalem: Israel yesterday unveiled sweeping plans for coping with so-called "messianic madness" among Christian pilgrims arriving in the Holy Land for millennium celebrations (Christopher Walker writes).

It is estimated that some 40,000 of the expected 4.5 million visitors will require psychiatric help, with 800 needing to be treated in mental hospitals. Leading agents from Shin Bet and Mossad, the Israeli domestic and foreign secret services, have been recruited into a new unit to deal with millennial cults and individuals who believe they are biblical figures.

Cash for Stasi boss

Berlin: Erich Mielke, 91, once head of East Germany's secret police, has got about €1,000 (£714) compensation for his three months in jail in 1991. Herr Mielke was accused of shooting people at the Berlin Wall, but was found too ill to stand trial. He was jailed for six years in 1993 for the 1931 murder of two policemenbut was freed as senile in August 1995. *(AFP)*

Korean actress flees



Seoul: Kim Hye Young, right, a popular North Korean film star, has defected to South Korea with her family. She, her parents and two sisters arrived in August but the defection was kept secrect to protect their safety. Kim Hye Young, 26, who was in the Pyongyang national theatre troupe, has starred in seven films. *(AFP)*

Death row killing

Parchman: Donald Leroy Evans, a drifter who claimed to have killed dozens of people in 22 states, was stabbed to death by a fellow death row inmate at Mississippi State Penitentiary here. Evans, 41, sentenced for strangling a girl aged ten, won notoriety after his 1991 arrest, saying he was a serial killer, but he later said the confessions were a hoax. *(AP)*

Coin smuggler held

Budapest: Hungarian customs officials have arrested a Bulgarian citizen trying to smuggle Ancient Greek, Roman, Thracian and Syrian coins, worth more than £37,000, to Britain. The 1,567 bronze and silver coins, dating from 3BC, were found in a bag hidden behind the car stereo of the man, who was trying to enter Austria with a false passport. *(AFP)*

Bullring ban sought

Madrid: The Madrid regional government's top official for children's rights wants bullrings declared off-limits for those under 14, saying that youngsters can be traumatised by watching bulls bleed to death. The proposal would make the region the second in Spain to bar young children from arena bullfights. Catalonia, in the northeast, did so last month. *(AP)*

Brief encounters

Bucharest: A wife given lacey underwear for her 35th birthday that was too small became suspicious when a woman guest at her party said she had received some that was too large. The next day a shop assistant confirmed that her husband had bought two sets of lingerie. After swapping underwear with "the other woman", she filed for divorce. *(AP)*

Yemen terror imperils port deal

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY IN ADEN

AMERICAN military chiefs fear the recent terrorist violence in Yemen may jeopardise their secret deal to establish an important shipping base at Aden.

The Pentagon plans to use the former British colony to bunker 600,000 barrels of marine diesel and aviation fuel which will be used to service its naval operation in the Gulf against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

As the first US warship docked in Aden under the deal, Scotland Yard detectives and the FBI were working yesterday to discover who was behind the Islamic group that kidnapped 16 Western tourists and was planning to bomb five British targets in the port city.

One senior US official said: "This eruption of Islamic terrorism in Yemen could not have come at a worse time, when we are considering hundreds of American military personnel walking around Aden on shore leave."

The priority for the ten-man FBI team sent to Yemen is to discover whether the al-Jihad group is trained and funded by the Saudi billionaire, Osama bin Laden, accused by Washington of various terrorist outrages.

FBI sources say they are certain that bin Laden has bases in mountainous southern Yemen where his terrorists fled after being forced out of Sudan and Afghanistan in the past seven months.

It has also been disclosed that US intelligence agents were warned six weeks ago that Hamas was planning to shift its headquarters from Khartoum to Yemen. A week later an armed gang shot an American aid worker in an ambush outside his home which is near where the kidnap of the tour group took place. One of the gunmen who escaped after wounding Rich Bonney is said to have also taken part in last week's shootout in the desert in which four hostages, including three Britons, were killed.

The Pentagon's ambitions for Aden will depend on the FBI's findings, although naval chiefs did decide to go ahead with plans for the frigate, USS Klakring, to dock off Aden's Prince of Wales pier, built by the British in 1919. None of the crew was allowed off the frigate which was returning from the Gulf. As she docked amid strict security, an Iranian tanker passed close by.

Until the British left in 1967, Aden was the world's second busiest port. It was a coking station for ships sailing to India and the Far East and its natural deep waters can berth the biggest aircraft carriers.

The US Navy needs the port because it is closing its operation at Djibouti and the Pentagon is worried about the future use of bases in Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia. The fuel bunker is being constructed by British technicians next to the terminal for the new Aden freeport that will open in March. The US base should have been operating by now, but the first fuel is not due in the tanks until next month.

The Americans also want to refurbish a nearby refinery so that it can produce the quality of marine diesel and aviation fuel they need to store.

American sources said that they will review plans to allow sailors and airmen shore leave during daylight; the decision will upset local traders and bar owners who had expected business not seen since the British occupation.

American security officials, conscious of the security threat in the region, wanted to train units of Yemeni troops in hostage rescue, but were forbidden to do so by American diplomats concerned about the Sanaa Government's hum[an] rights record.

Washington was also un[im]pressed by Yemen's recent [cr]iticism of Operation Desert [Fox] against Saddam. US offici[a]ls thought that President Sal[eh]'s Government had learnt [i]ts lesson after condemning [th]e Gulf War and then seeing [t]wo million Yemenis expelled f[ro]m Gulf states and the cutting [o]f Western aid.

British authorities are [be]lieved to have asked Yem[en] about using its former b[ar]racks at Fuqum in Little Ad[en] as the West seeks bases in [th]e Gulf. After the diploma[ti]c wrangles of the past week o[ver] the conduct of the bungled k[id]nap rescue, two senior Sc[ot]land Yard detectives from [th]e anti-terror[ist] squad toge[th]er with [th]e British co[n]sul, Dav[id] Pearce, he[ld] discussio[ns] with Tah[a] Ahme[d] Ghanem, t[he] Governor [of] Aden. The f[o]cus of the i[n]vestigatio[n] will be [to] question Abu Hassan, t[he] jailed kidnap leader, and thr[ee] terrorists arrested in Aden u[s]ing fake British passpo[rts]. They were said to be about [to] launch bomb attacks on fi[ve] targets, including the Briti[sh] consulate and the Anglica[n] church. They said that the [in]vestigation will take time a[nd] urged the authorities not [to] proceed with its plans to co[n]vict and execute Hassan soo[n].

Victor Henderson, the Bri[t]ish Ambassador, met Husse[in] Mohammed Arab, the Yem[eni] Interior Minister, yesterd[ay] about the investigation. M[r] Henderson denied repo[rts] that British ministers had sa[id] that they will block Yeme[n's] application to join the Co[m]monwealth because of its ha[n]dling of the kidnap incident.


Aden port where the US Navy has organised a refuelling base, an arrangement thrown into doubt by the recent hostage-taking incident

TURKEY
IRAN
IRAQ
The Gulf
Red Sea
EGYPT
SAUDI ARABIA
OMAN
SUDAN
YEMEN
200 miles

Iran group renews threat to Rushdie

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SALMAN Rushdie's life is under renewed threat from a shadowy, well organised Iranian extremist group that has claimed responsibility for the recent murders of four dissidents and an attack on American tourists, a moderate Iranian newspaper said yesterday.

Zan, a usually well informed woman's daily, said that the little-known Fedayeen (Devotees) of Pure Mohammedan Islam was "preparing to put into effect the historic fatwa" of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, who condemned the author to death in 1989 for alleged blasphemy in his novel, The Satanic Verses.

The group released a statement saying that it is using "all means at its disposal to plan the application of the fatwa", Zan said. It added th[at] the group had repeated an ea[r]lier claim that it had kill[ed] two secular writers and Dar[i]ush Foruhar, the national[ist] leader, and his wife, Parva[n]eh Eskandari. The group['s] structure is said to include [a] judicial section run by thr[ee] judges, Zan added.

While any threat to M[r] Rushdie will be taken seriou[s]ly, too little is known abo[ut] the group to gauge the level [of] danger. "To what extent it [is] real or invented simply [to] cause problems for Iran's i[n]ternational relations is u[n]clear," an Iranian analy[st] said. "Assuming it does exi[st] and did carry out the murde[rs] here, there is no way of know[]ing whether it has the capacit[y] to act abroad."





Ventura speaking at his inauguration ceremony

Mayor wrestles with new career

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE speech lasted just 11 minutes, but the party is scheduled to go on for a fortnight.

Despite deep snow and Minnesota's customarily bitter January temperatures, an unprecedented two-week gala is under way to welcome the state's new Governor, Jesse Ventura, a 250lb human battering ram who once ruled the professional wrestling circuit in a pink feather boa.

But the glow is already fading from Mr Ventura's halo. Having campaigned as an Independent last November with raucous, ad-libbed attacks on both his rivals and the status quo, he has already back-pedalled on a pledge to return a $3.3 billion (£2 billion) state budget surplus to taxpayers. Instead, he has said he will be "prudent" — not a word his supporters, most of them disenchanted with the major parties, had hoped to hear so soon.

Mr Ventura has also swapped his flannel shirts and snow boots for sober charcoal suits, and has accepted the gubernatorial perk of a chauffeur-driven limousine. He used to ride a Harley. But Mrs Ventura, who begged him not to run, did appear at his inauguration ceremony in St Paul, the state capital.

Minnesota's inaugural festivities will reach their climax on January 16: not with a glittering ball but a "people's celebration", for which tickets are already on sale, starting at $10.

Clinton relaxes trade embargo on Cuba

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton has loosened the United States's long-standing trade embargo with Cuba to allow more movement of people and money between the two countries.

While insisting America is still hostile to President Castro's regime, the White House hopes to "strengthen support for the Cuban people".

Under the new rules, Cubans will be allowed to receive cash from any individual in the US, sales of food and agricultural products will be permitted for the first time on a limited basis, a direct mail service will be reintroduced and there will be an expansion of US charter flights in and out of the island.

And, in a move echoing the "ping-pong diplomacy" that helped to improve relations with China in the 1970s, the Baltimore Orioles baseball team is to explore the possibility of home and away games against the Cuban national team later this year.

There was no immediate reaction in Havana to President Clinton's announcement. Alejandro Gonzalez, a Foreign Ministry official there, said: "We have only seen press reports on this subject. We do not have an official statement from the North American Government on this, so for now we do not have any reactions."

The White House stopped short of a full review of American policy towards Cuba, called for by a bipartisan group of senators. Nevertheless, fierce opponents of the regime immediately attacked the initiative. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican House representative from Florida, said that the measures were part of an Administration attempt to mask its "true intention of normalising relations with the Cuban dictator".

Ms Ros-Lehtinen's Cuban-American colleague in the House, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, also a Florida Republican, said that he will oppose any food sales to Cuba on the ground that they are illegal. The Administration said that any such sales would be limited to entities independent of the Government, and, therefore, would be legal.

Mr Clinton insisted that none of the initiatives involved any softening of the three-decade trade embargo — imposed in 1962 when President Castro aligned his country with the Soviet Union — saying: "These steps are designed to help the Cuban people without strengthening the Cuban Government.

"They are consistent with our policy of keeping pressure on the regime for democratic change — through the embargo and vigorous diplomatic initiatives — while finding ways to reach out to the Cuban people through humanitarian efforts and help in developing civil society."

The measures build on the Cuba Democracy Act of 1992, which tightened the US embargo but also called for increased exchanges between Cubans and Americans.

"Progress in contacts between the peoples — rather than the Governments — of the two countries have been hampered by political setbacks, including the mass exodus of Cubans to Florida in 1994 and the shooting down by two Cuban MiG jet fighters of four unarmed, Miami-based planes north of the island in 1996. However, the Pope's visit to Cuba a year ago has made it easier for the Administration to introduce innovations.

Officials insist the policy shifts help to promote democracy without helping President Castro. A year ago all cash transfers from US residents to needy Cubans were barred.

In March, Mr Clinton allowed Cuban-Americans to send up to $1,200 (about £723) a year to relatives. That restriction is to be eased further, permitting any US resident to send money to the island up to the $1,200 annual limit.

Until 1993, President Castro barred Cubans from holding dollars, seeing the currency as a reminder of past abuses.

But with the Cuban economy in free fall, cash payments to family members are believed to have spared countless Cubans from destitution and allowed many to set up private businesses, something unheard of a few years ago.

Cuban co-operation will be required in some areas, particularly the plan for increased exchanges. An early test will come when a delegation from the Baltimore Orioles travels to Havana, perhaps this week, to sound out Cuban officials on the possibility of one or two exhibition baseball games with a Cuban squad in March. Baseball is the most popular sport in Cuba, with the President himself — a former pitcher — a huge fan. Profits from the games would go to independent charities aimed at assisting Cubans.

Currently mail deliveries between the countries are possible but often take months. The proposal for a direct service comes after a significant expansion of US-Cuban telephone communications earlier in the decade, made possible by an extensive modernisation programme.

Direct charter flights to Cuba were legal until 1996 when the four Miami-based planes were shot down. Mr Clinton retaliated by banning such flights, but he reinstated them last March. His new proposal contemplates an easing of existing restrictions on such flights, possibly including allowing flights from cities other than Miami.

The sales of food would be to non-governmental organisations and independent restaurants. The decision to reject senators' calls for a commission to review all aspects of US policy towards Cuba disappointed Senator John Warner of Virginia. He is an embargo opponent who led the drive for the commission and believes that current policy treats Cuba more cruelly than more bona fide threats to America's national security, such as Iraq and North Korea.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, hailed the package as a "major advance in our effort to reach out to the Cuban people.

"Our goal is to encourage the development in Cuba of peaceful civic activities that are independent of the Government and that will help the Cuban people prepare for the day when their country is once again free," she said.

She added that the US shift in policy would "maintain pressure for democratic change" on the island nation while at the same time helping to advance "the dream of a Cuba where all can participate in . . . political life. We will continue to work with them on constructive ideas to promote democratic change."

GARY HERSHORN / REUTERS



President Castro and his Communist regime are not intended to benefit from Washington's new measures which aim to "help the Cuban people"

Castro addressing supporters in 1959, days after his predecessor, President Batista, fled the country

Diplomats in US accused of using slave labour

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

SLAVERY lives on in the United States, with diplomats and officials in international organisations often guilty of treating staff like serfs, according to human rights groups.

Some of those alleged to be the worst abusers are foreigners employed at embassies and institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations.

They are accused of bringing in domestic staff from impoverished countries on temporary work visas and then forcing them to toil round the clock, without days off, for poor wages. The servants, mostly women, are often victims of violence but have nowhere and no one to turn to.

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, has launched an investigation, involving the FBI and a clutch of government departments, into what she called the "serious problem of modern-day slavery".

The Washington Post yesterday published a catalogue of alleged abuse in the capital by foreigners who had flouted labour laws.

One illiterate Ethiopian woman, Yeshehareg Teferra, claimed that she worked for a member of staff at the IMF for 90 hours a week for eight years. Although she says she was given a contract for a wage of $235 (£145) a week, she received just $1,060 for the entire period, in effect working for 3 cents an hour. She has filed a suit against Dawit Makonnen, her former employer, for back pay and damages.

Mr Makonnen has argued that she is owed nothing because after he left the IMF in 1992 she was a "guest" in his house. "I was not their guest," Ms Teferra said. "I was not even their employee. I was their slave."



Reno: ordered inquiry into slavery allegations

The FBI became aware of a 60-year-old woman working for a Brazilian businessman when she entered hospital and told social workers she had to beg neighbours for food but was afraid to run away because she had been told by her employers that she would be arrested for being black.

☐ **Canberra:** Australia is to expand the scope of proposed new anti-slavery laws aimed particularly at the growing sex slave trade and will increase jail terms to 25 years for the most serious offenders. The federal police have uncovered 14 cases of sexual slavery in the past two years. Australia has not changed its slavery laws for 150 years.

"The legislation will focus on slavery generally and the recruitment of people overseas for sexual servitude," Amanda Vanstone, the Australian Justice Minister, said. *(Reuters)*

Hollywood 'Indian' dies at 94

BY GILES WHITTELL

IRON Eyes Cody, a veteran actor who claimed to be an Indian and came to symbolise the plight of America's endangered wilderness, has died in Los Angeles after half a century in Hollywood and a youth that remains shrouded in mystery.

He gained fame in an era when Native Americans were called Red Indians, making a career as the noble face of an oppressed people. Two years ago, however, a New Orleans newspaper claimed he was a second-generation Italian American for whom Hollywood provided an escape from his parents' blue-collar grind.

Mr Cody appeared in dozens of prewar Westerns and worked with such directors as John Ford and Cecil B. De Mille, but was best-known for a one-minute commercial first broadcast in 1970 in which he paddled down a river past a belching smokestack and turned to the camera in front of a littered roadside, a single tear rolling down his cheek.

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FBI frees youth and arrests kidnap suspects as China holds accomplices

FROM KAREN LOWE IN LOS ANGELES

FBI AGENTS have freed the son of a wealthy Taiwanese businessman held for ransom just as Chinese authorities arrested accomplices in Fuzhou province picking up the money, officials said.

Close co-operation between US and Chinese authorities ensured the capture of kidnappers in Los Angeles on Monday and of those retrieving the ransom in China, said Timothy McNally, FBI assistant director-in-charge of Los Angeles.

"To our knowledge, this type of international co-operation, where we actually had a ransom demand and delivery being conducted, was the first of its kind," he said.

Kuan Nen Chen, 17, a student, was safely reunited with his mother nearly three weeks after he was abducted as he arrived home on December 15. He was climbing out of his car when two men slapped tape over his mouth and grabbed him.

A diligent student in the San Marino neighborhood east of Los Angeles, the young man's disappearance went unnoticed for two days. His guardian and neighbour believed she had not seen him because he was studying late.

When he did not show up in school and there was no explanation for his absence, the guardian contacted his parents in Taiwan, according to Gary Isaacs, the San Marino police chief. They immediately contacted the police.

The guardian also told the authorities that she had noticed several days before the abduction that a car had stopped near the home while a man stood at the end of the driveway looking at the house.

The boy's father, Fu Shun Chen, who owns Landwin Corporation, a property development company with offices in Taiwan and Temple City, near Los Angeles, received a $1.5 million (£900,000) ransom demand while he was in Taiwan.

FBI agents tracked down the owner of the car and soon located the Temple City house where the boy was being held. The authorities waited to confirm the boy's location before raiding the home.

Before delivering the ransom money, the father asked if he could speak to his son to make sure that he was still alive. During that conversation, agents tracked the mobile telephone to the Temple City home.

At the same time, under the direction of Chinese and US authorities, the father agreed to a meeting in Fuzhou, in China's Fujian province about 30 miles across the sea from Taiwan, to deliver $500,000.

The Chinese authorities arrested two men who had accompanied the boy's father to a Fuzhou bank to withdraw the ransom at the same time as police officers raided the Temple City home.

Xu-Lin Wang, 27, of Temple City, and Xue Han Wang, of New York, both originally from Fuzhou, were arrested and charged with hostage-taking. If they are convicted, they could be sentenced to life in prison. *(AFP)*

In search of the energy inside a vacuum

Physics can show there is energy in a vacuum, but will we be able to tap into it, asks **Nigel Hawkes**

A perfect vacuum is the absence of everything, unless you are a quantum physicist. Then you know that empty space is actually filled with particles which wink in and out of existence too rapidly to be seen. Even at absolute zero, a vacuum is sweating energy at every pore, unlikely as it seems. Some bolder spirits, touched by millennial fever, have even claimed that this "zero-point energy" is the fuel of the future which will generate electricity, replace crude oil and propel mankind across the vast emptiness of space.

At a laboratory near Austin in Texas, rather grandly called the Institute for Advanced Studies — an echo of the better-known institution at Princeton where Einstein spent his final years — a small team led by the physicist Dr Harold Puthoff is testing the claims of inventors who say that they can tap into zero-point energy. Over the past decade, Dr Puthoff has examined at least ten devices and found none that works.

> In empty space, particles wink in and out of existence

To mainstream scientists, the effort smacks of cold fusion. But unlike that débâcle, in this case at least the energy is real, as physicists have recently shown in experiments which confirm quantum theory's predictions to a nicety. While this brings us no closer to exploiting zero-point energy, or even to knowing how much of it there is, it is always satisfying when a long-standing prediction is proved true.

But first, why should zero-point energy even exist? The simplest explanation comes from Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, which declares that it is impossible to know simultaneously both the position and the momentum of a particle. At absolute zero, this principle would be violated if particles were absolutely still, since then both position and momentum would be known. So they must continue to jiggle about, even when they no longer have any thermal motion. The same rule applies to energy. That means that even in empty space, energy continues to exist; and because energy and mass are equivalent, the vacuum energy must be able to create particles which flash briefly into existence, then disappear. Such ephemeral events are called fluctuations.

In 1948 the Dutch physicist Hendrik Casimir outlined a way of detecting this vacuum energy. He argued that it should manifest itself as a tiny force acting between two flat reflecting plates held very close together, but not touching, in a vacuum. If the gap were small enough, he reasoned, it would form a channel so narrow that only certain wavelengths of light, and their respective particles, could be contained within it.

Just as driving into a tunnel cuts off a radio signal, so the narrow channel would cut off some of the wavelengths of light. But outside the channel would be photons of all wavelengths. The discrepancy would result in a force pushing the plates together — a force no bigger than a speck of dust falling on the top plate but still, in theory, detectable.

Last year the physicist Steven Lamoreaux, of Los Alamos National Laboratory, measured the Casimir force for the first time. His experimental arrangement was more complex than Casimir envisaged, consisting of two gold-coated quartz bars and a gold-plated sphere, arranged close together so that the effect of the Casimir force was to cause one bar, hanging on a wire, to twist. He then measured the force needed to restore it to its original position. It agreed with Casimir's prediction to within 5 per cent. "We're excited: it confirms a very basic prediction of quantum electrodynamics," said Ed Hinds of Sussex University.

Last month Umar Mohideen and Anushree Roy, of the University of California at Riverside, went a step further, using an atomic force microscope to position an aluminium-coated sphere less than a thousandth of a millimetre away from a plate and to measure the force between them. After correcting for errors, they concluded in *Physical Review Letters* that the force they measured was within 1 per cent of the predicted value. And by enlarging and cooling the ball, "we are confident that we can improve the accuracy by a factor of 1,000", Dr Mohideen said.

So yet again, quantum theory has triumphed over common sense; the world really is an oddly constructed place. But is zero-point energy just a curiosity, or does it underlie some of the large-scale structure of the Universe? Can it ever be put to use? Here is where enthusiasts such as Dr Puthoff and most of the rest of the physics community part company.

> To many scientists, the effort smacks of cold fusion

Even calculating how much energy there might be presents awkward problems. In theory, any volume of empty space could contain an infinite number of fluctuations, and hence an infinite amount of energy. That energy would in turn generate gravitational fields out of all proportion to anything we observe in the Universe around us. Even if simplifications are made to eliminate the infinities, the number remains dauntingly large — according to the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Weinberg, ten to the power of 120 times larger than the observed expansion of the Universe allows. "This must be the worst failure of an order-of-magnitude estimate in the history of science," he says.

If so, there must be a lot less vacuum energy than the equations suggest. There might be enough, perhaps, to contribute to an anti-gravity effect, observed in the accelerating expansion of the Universe described in last week's Science Briefing. Certainly Dr Lamoreaux's experiments do not indicate a huge untapped reservoir of energy waiting to be exploited. His experiment extracted 10-15 joules, a piffling quantity. He resents having become a hero to a group for whom he has little time. "The zero-point energy community is more successful at advertising and self-promotion than it is at carrying out *bona fide* scientific research," he told *Scientific American*.

None of this worries Dr Puthoff. He believes that zero-point energy provides the force that stops electrons in atoms spiralling down until they hit the nucleus; and also suspects that inertia, the reluctance of objects to be accelerated, is caused by the drag of moving through a zero-point field. If so, he argues, then it would be worth trying to manipulate the field to reduce inertia, which would enable a rocket to go much faster, and hence much farther, on the same fuel load. Nasa, the American space agency, convened a meeting at which this idea was discussed, to the disgust of some physicists.

Although it is never wise to declare a possible source of energy moonshine — as Lord Rutherford once did of nuclear power — the prospect of civilisation subsisting on a vacuum seems improbable in the extreme.

Even in a quantum universe, with its Alice in Wonderland quality, that would be too close to getting something for nothing.



The Pleiades, an open star cluster 400 light years from Earth. Devotees of zero-point energy claim that it could help mankind to cross the vastness of interstellar space

Microarrays can carry 10,000 fragments of DNA — and will eventually diagnose disease

Genetics' smartcard



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

A NEW device is set to revolutionise biology. No bigger than a credit card but carrying up to 10,000 fragments of DNA, the microarray will do for genetics what the silicon chip did for computing. It is a safe bet that in the next century, microarrays will be diagnosing disease; assessing an individual's risk of cancer or heart disease; or monitoring the progress of a drug treatment.

Last week a team from the Medical Research Council's Clinical Sciences Centre at Hammersmith Hospital used a microarray to identify a gene in rats that causes a condition akin to insulin resistance syndrome in human beings. The discovery, published in *Nature Genetics* and reported in some editions of *The Times* on December 29, is important not only because the syndrome is an early pointer to obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, but also because it illustrates the power of microarrays to penetrate the genetic jungle and pinpoint a single tree.

The method works because DNA is a double-stranded molecule which, when split into single strands, does its best to double up again. But it can only do so if it finds the right single strand with which to form a pair. The strands consist of chains of bases — adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine — which always form the same pairs. Adenine on one strand always binds to thymine, while cytosine binds to guanine. This means that two single strands of DNA will fasten together like a zipper, but only if their sequences are complementary.

A microarray consists of a solid surface of glass or silica, with single-stranded fragments of DNA arranged in columns and rows across its surface. Creating the chips has something in common with building a silicon circuit. The end product is a flat surface with a huge number of short lengths of DNA floating from it, like tendrils of seaweed rising from the ocean floor.

To use the chip, a DNA sample is taken from a patient, purified, split into single strands, then cut into short lengths. Each piece is then tagged with a fluorescent molecule, and washed over the chip. Where DNA strands in the mixture hit a complementary sequence on the chip, they bind. The better the match, the stronger the bond. Then a chemical is washed over the chip to break all but the strongest bonds. Finally a computer reads the position of the fluorescent tags still attached to the surface, and matches them to the original length of DNA attached to that site.

In this way a microarray can be used to "interrogate" a sample of DNA and to identify the DNA sequences within it. "In a single afternoon, people have confirmed work that took several years using conventional gene sequencing processes," Ed Hurwitz, of Affymetrix, a California company which has pioneered the technology, told *New Scientist*. *Nature Genetics* has produced a supplement on the subject, the Chipping Forecast, available on the Internet as a Web special at *http://genetics.nature.com* One day, the entire human genome will be available on a chip, or range of chips. Then results will really pour in.

Sex, shakes and the single stickleback

AMONG male sticklebacks, size really doesn't matter. What the females want is not a big mate, but one who can shake that thing. The better the shaker, the more desirable he is, according to Sara Ostlund and Ingrid Ahnesjö, zoologists from Uppsala University in Sweden.

They studied the 15-spined stickleback, *Spinachia spinachia*, a species in which the male provides the main care for offspring: building nests, cleaning and protecting the eggs, and fanning them with his pectoral fins.

The point of fanning is to oxygenate the embryos, to improve their chances of survival. The optimum fanning style is achieved in short but vigorous bouts in which the highest possible beat rate is reached. So females can do themselves a favour by picking as mates those males who can do this well.

But how are they to know in advance? The zoologists report in *Animal Behaviour* that shaking is how the males advertise their skills. They do so by bending their heads upwards and shaking very fast for about a second, alternating the behaviour with other courting rituals such as showing the nest, approaching the female, or biting her.

Valuable prize for lunar prospectors

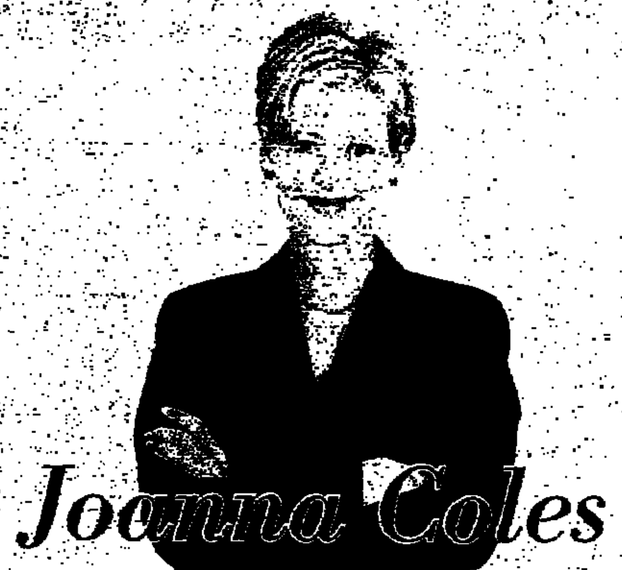


WHAT use is the Moon? While it is certainly not paved with gold, it does harbour a gas that may one day be as valuable: helium-3. This rare isotope of helium, 1,000 times less common than the regular helium-4, could provide the fuel for a future generation of fusion reactors, in which it would be combined with deuterium — a form of hydrogen — to produce abundant energy.

Helium-3 is far more plentiful on the Moon than on Earth because the Moon captures it from the solar wind, a flow of particles from the Sun. It is estimated that 750,000 tonnes of helium-3 lie in the top three metres of the Moon's surface, when a mere 30 tonnes in a fusion reactor would be enough to meet the annual energy demands of the entire American economy. Now planetary scientists from the US Geological Survey have produced a map of the distribution of helium-3 for future prospectors.

The best areas lie in the maria, the Moon's dark seas, but regions with titanium-rich rocks are also pinpointed because they trap the gas. But nobody is likely to be trampled in the rush to exploit it. At best, helium levels in the lunar soil do not exceed 20 parts per billion, which means shifting a lot of soil for not much helium.

Do you have to have big breasts to work here?



Saturday morning: Hunched over *The New York Times*, Peter lets out a sudden groan. "Tragic news," he cries. "The Manhattan Hooters is going bankrupt. We must go there before it closes."

In fact he has been trying to organise a trip to Hooters since it opened here on 56th Street, just off Broadway, a year ago. I have not been enthusiastic. With 232 restaurants across the country, Hooters is the sixth-largest restaurant chain in America; however, the attraction is more than its food. Like most other chains, it serves the standard fare of burgers, chicken wings and chef salads *suffocated with blue-cheese dressing*. But Hooters offers an extra delicacy: a flotilla of friendly waitresses, famous for their generous breasts, cantilevered by push-up bras into skimpy crop-tops accompanied by equally skimpy orange shorts.

"I'd better get a group together while we can still go," says Peter briskly, reaching for the phone. "Michael? Did you see that Hooters has filed for chapter 11 protection from creditors? We're thinking of . . ."

"Absolutely!" interrupts Michael. "Count me in."

"Hooters? That's my Dad's favourite restaurant," says Dana, laughing. "Can I bring him, too?"

I call to make a reservation on the free-phone number. "Burger and fries, burger and fries, burger and fries . . ." says the message imitating a stuck record. "Tired of the same old menu? Come to Hooters and *enjoy our gourmet hotdogs*. You can add mushrooms!" Then the receptionist answers.

"Hello, Hooters."

"Can I make a reservation for tonight?" I ask.

"You want to make a reservation?" This in itself is our first warning. In a town where you can wait weeks for a booking, and Le Cirque, five minutes' walk away on Madison, claims to receive 5,000 calls a day from diners begging for a table, the girl from Hooters sounds incredulous.

"Yes, for six people."

"Er, OK then, but there's really no need."

Saturday night: From the outside, Hooters, perched on the second floor above a 24-hour parking garage, is not easy to spot. Its entrance is up some steps leading to a concrete courtyard, where the owner later dolefully admits he was recently mugged. The six of us arrive promptly at 6pm but are soon to be disappointed.

"Where are the hooters?" exclaims Peter, as a waitress sails past in a shapeless white tracksuit and Ross, the manager, shows us to a high, round table whose centrepiece is a fixed roll of paper towel. Dana's father, a veteran of several Hooters bars in Virginia, looks confused. "The interior is kind of the same but one of the girls from my local Hooters, at Newport News, went on to be a *Playboy* centrefold," he says. "I don't think anyone here's gonna do that."

Another fully tracksuited girl goes past and, noting our chagrin, Ross apologises. "We are having a little heating problem . . ." Outside it is a perishing 15F and one of the coldest days I can remember.

Though the interior is the regulation sauna-style orange pine, reminiscent of a ski chalet, it is distinctly cool.

"Hi, I'm Anna. Welcome to Hooters. I'm your waitress for this evening," says Anna, hopping up on to one of the high stools and settling in as if to join us for the evening. This is another of Hooters' unique selling points which goes down so well west of the Hudson. While they take orders, the waitresses are required to join your table and chat.

Though slight, Anna's cleavage is bravely on display, peeping from the top of her crop-top. As we look around, it becomes clear that she is the only one sporting enough to expose any part of her body at all. The other girls are sticking to their sweats, their only concession to Hooters being the red flashing *badges they wear on each nipple*. The wall above us is decorated with imitation road signs: "Caution: blondes thinking!" Next to it is another one: "Warning: high levels of hydrogen peroxide in the air." And another, featuring twin humps, warns simply: "Bumps."

On the neighbouring table a large man has just inserted long ribbed stems of celery up each nostril and is nodding his head, barking like a walrus to cheers from his companions. Anna hands us each a paper plate and an antiseptic wipe.

> The only concession is the red flashing badge on each nipple

"Hooters — delightfully tacky yet unrefined," boasts the menu, recalling the original dilemma faced in 1983 by the start-up team of what to name yet another restaurant chain. "Simple, what else brings a gleam to men's eyes everywhere besides beer and chicken wings and an occasional winning football season? Hooters — it is supposed they were into owls!"

"Yeah, that owl thing confused people a bit," says Dana's father. "At the grand opening in Newport News, grandmothers took children along thinking it was a nature restaurant."

We order two Sample Platters — "A little bit of everything. Trust us, we never lie." Around us the restaurant erupts as 50 television screens show the Arizona Cardinals scoring against the Dallas Cowboys. In his excitement, the man on the neighbouring table has removed the celery stick from his right nostril and is chomping it.

At a time when New York's Mayor is closing down the city's sex clubs, Hooters' girls are more *Baywatch* than Sally Bowles. The atmosphere is saucy postcard not serious sex, and in one corner two young children are cheerfully tucking into a pile of battered buffalo wings, accompanied by their parents.

So why hasn't it caught on here, *I ask Richard Yudenfriend*, the owner of the franchise, sitting gloomily at the bar. Given that it now has two extremely successful S&M restaurants, is Manhattan too sophisticated? Its taste in sex too dark for this wholesome Midwestern version?

"No, no. The problem is that the landlord's not giving me enough signage exposure," he grumbles, flicking his tiny ponytail. "No one can find us."

"Do you have to have big breasts to work here?" I inquire.

"No," he insists. "Just the right personality." Hanging from the ceiling above him, a promotional inflated Budweiser sofa is leaking air with a soft hiss.

"Whenever I go to a different city I always look for the Hooters," says Roberto Rosado, a broker, roosting at the bar in a black woolly cap and alpine sweater. "I came by for a beer once, wanted to be alone, but I loved the staff. I like the Miami Beach Hooters. It's just like this — only 60 degrees warmer."

As we get up to leave, Yudenfriend calls after us. "Come back at the end of next week — *we should have auxiliary heating on by then.*"

How to silence the body when it cries out for a doughnut

SLIM FOREVER



In the final extract from his book, **Dr Robert C. Atkins** says nuts or cream cheese may stop the cravings that threaten to break your diet

IMAGE BANK



Beware the binge: if your body screams out for a particular food, you have activated an addiction. It is metabolic — and you must tough it out

The Atkins programme is not just about losing weight, it helps you to keep excess pounds off for ever by adding some of your most desired foods to the basic diet you lost weight on. It also recognises the fact that sometimes *it is just impossible to resist* a craving or the desire to binge — and shows you how to break the diet and survive.

If you do succumb to that craving and go back to sugar, bread or fruit, you suddenly discover that you must have these foods and that no day or meal feels right without them. If this should happen, you will notice that the need which develops is genuinely physical. It isn't simply that a doughnut tastes good and that you'd like to have it. No, your body roars with anxiety and passion for that doughnut. And then you know — you have activated an addiction, just like an alcoholic with his bottle.

This isn't shameful. It's physical, it's chemical, it's metabolic — and that's precisely why you must avoid it. Most of you already know that for a significant portion of your life carbohydrates have been stronger than you. But even now you must never ignore a craving; it may pass but it is likely to reappear momentarily when your resolve is weak. And then you break the diet.

Since craving is part of addiction, that could trigger a cycle of addictive eating behaviour. Your craving appeared, most likely, in a relatively fasting state; it was triggered by a fall in blood glucose and your body perceived a need to put a brake on the falling glucose level and gave a signal that sweets were needed.

Change your physiology from a fasting to a fed state by eating something: in Atkins diet language, food, rich food, and plenty of it — but, of course, fat and protein food with very little or no carbohydrate. This will stabilise your blood glucose and all the other constituents that give rise to the craving signal. The best foods to beat a craving are macadamia nuts, the dieter's best friend. Other nut choices are walnuts, pecans or brazils. Others are cream cheese or rich dessert cheese.

You can also do this with something sweet — artificially so — and with whipping cream. Put three or four tablespoons of whipping cream into a glass and top it with a diet soft drink, or you may opt for diet gelatin dessert with whipping cream. Or try fried pork rings which sound terribly *fatty but, in fact, contain* nearly none. Virtually all the fat has been rendered off.

Similarly, if you binge, it is better to binge on protein/fat foods. Not because you can't gain a pound or two if you put away too many thick steaks, but because protein foods are fundamentally self-limiting. Everyone has eaten 30 biscuits in one sitting at some time, but how many people have eaten ten hard-boiled eggs at one sitting? People just don't do it. Protein and fat foods satiate appetite too quickly. The crucial fact about protein foods is that they don't unleash a metabolic tidal wave in your body. Very few people get protein addiction. Your blood glucose level doesn't rise sharply and fall when you eat an omelette.

On reaching your ideal weight, move on to the maintenance diet. Here you no longer need to practise a ketogenic diet, since ketosis/lipolysis by definition involves an element of fat loss. Newly slim people are no longer trying to shed *pounds so they don't burn fat*. But here is the catch that many dieters don't understand: there is very little leeway before you break through the other Critical Carbohydrate Level — the Critical Carbohydrate Level for Maintenance, the one at which you begin to gain.

A typical person of average metabolic resistance may find he must stay on between 40 and 60 grams of carbohydrate daily. Eating more than the 40 prevents him from losing more pounds and becoming too thin; eating less than the 60 prevents weight gain.

Once you are on the maintenance diet you can eat most vegetables, nuts and berries. You can cautiously reintroduce the vegetables containing more than 10 per cent carbohydrate, as well as whole grains such as oats, barley, millet or buckwheat. You may even be able to handle an occasional potato and a fruit a day. You can begin to use recipes containing some carbohydrates.

But the last choice for you, the truly hazardous indulgence, is sweets. Frankly, you should restrict your consumption of sweets made with real sugars to the occasional slice *of birthday cake. Make your* own sweets with artificial sweeteners. And remember to be endlessly wary of sugar and corn syrup, white flour and corn starch. Look at labels on packaged foods and avoid like the plague those that contain sugar, corn syrup, honey, maltose, dextrose, fructose, lactose, sorbitol and other variations. Use caffeine and alcohol in moderation.

And if you find yourself gaining weight, don't put off dealing with it — go straight back to the induction phase of the diet. Never allow yourself to be more than a two-week diet away from that goal weight. Do not go back to your maintenance diet without first losing all you have regained. It is simple. A salad a day of carbohydrate and you have slashed your weight back to perfect in as little as six to eight days, or two to three weeks if you have high metabolic resistance.

● *Extracted from* Dr Atkins' New Diet Revolution, *published by Vermilion at £6.99. Times readers can order it, free of postage/packaging, by calling* The Times *Bookshop, 0990 134459. Copyright* Dr *Robert C. Atkins 1999.*

SUPPLEMENTS FOR HEALTHY LIVING

ALL my patients receive a fairly significant amount of vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids and other nutritional agents. I prescribe them because I have learnt that nutrients can have an impact on *anyone's health*.

I have found many nutrients to be valuable, conferring health advantages even on healthy people, so I no longer consider that a person following a theoretically optimal — even "perfect" — diet could live as long or as healthily as he could were he to take nutritional supplements as well. I have developed a dieter's formula of supplements. It includes:

Vitamin A 200 IU; Beta-Carotene 500 IU; Vitamin D-2 15 IU; Thiamine (B_1) 5mg; *Riboflavin* (B_2) 4mg; Vitamin C (Calcium Ascorbate) 120mg; Niacin (B_3) 2mg; Niacinamide 5mg; Pantetheine (80%) 25mg; Calcium Pantothenate (B_5) 25mg; Pyridoxal-5-Phosphate 2mg; Pyridoxine (B_6) 20mg; Folic Acid 100mcg; Biotin 75mcg; Cyanocobalamin (B_{12}) 30mcg; Vitamin E 20 IU; Copper (Sulfate) 200mcg; Magnesium (Oxide) 8mg; Choline (Bitartrate) 100mg; Inositol 80mg; PABA 100mg; Manganese (Chelate) 4mg; Zinc (Chelate) 10mg; Citrus Bioflavonoids 150mg; Chromium (*Picolinate*) *50mcg*; Molybdenum (Sodium) 10mcg; Vanadyl Sulfate 15mcg; Selenium 40mcg; Octacosanol 150mcg; N-Acetyl-l-cysteine 20mg; and L-Glutathione (reduced) 5mg — all in a base of lactobacillus: bulgaris and bifidus acidophilus, B Complex and growth factors.

The suggested dosage is one to three tablets three times a day, after meals.

● *Catherine Collins, chief dietician at St George's Hospital, London, points out that this diet is not suitable for diabetics. Anyone starting a diet should first consult their doctor.*

MEAL PLANNER IDEAS FOR THE MAINTENANCE DIET



BREAKFAST
(All foods on the Induction and the Ongoing Weight Loss diets are also included.)
½ grapefruit; 135g (4½oz) of honeydew or cantaloupe melon; 90g (3oz) of berries, any kind, with a dollop of soured cream or whipped cream (not pre-sweetened); you may add almond, lemon, orange or vanilla flavours; 125g (4oz) unflavoured yoghurt; corned beef hash; eggs Florentine; mushrooms, onions and eggs.

LUNCH
Spinach egg pie – 900g (2lb) spinach leaves, 1tbsp fresh *basil, 2tbsp ricotta cheese, 2 egg yolks, 450ml (16fl oz)* whipping cream, 1tbsp grated Parmesan cheese. Preheat oven to 230C/450F/Gas Mark 8. Cook spinach for 1 minute. Cool. Squeeze out excess water. Place in food processor with basil, ricotta, egg yolks and cream. Add salt, pepper and grated nutmeg to taste. Purée. Sprinkle with Parmesan. Bake until golden. (Makes four servings, each with 13.6 carb. grams.)

DINNER
Starters, soups and salads: chilled marinated stuffed fried mushrooms; cold salad of scrambled egg and cottage cheese with asparagus; stuffed fried mushrooms with goat's cheese.
Main courses: chicken cacciatore; medallions of lamb with green lentils and bacon.
Side dishes: French beans with walnut sauce; stuffed peppers.
Desserts: Chocolate truffles; rum truffles; zabaglione.

Too sugary, even for the States

Bronwen Maddox asks if America is ready for Mrs President

The most boring politician in America could have upstaged the impending Senate trial of Bill Clinton. That drama is lacking in direction, momentum or menace. As it happens, a couple of the dreariest had a good shot. The arch-conservative Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire, in announcing that he might run for the Republican nomination for President in 2000, and Senator John Ashcroft, figurehead of the Religious Right, in hinting that he probably would not, glimmered in the limelight. Neither signal has real import, other than to show how much attention has already turned to the next presidency, regardless of President Clinton's fate.

But it was Elizabeth Dole who deservedly grabbed this week's headlines. Her announcement that she was stepping down as President of the Red Cross to consider "exciting possibilities" was read, as intended, as a sign that she might run for the presidential nomination. Can Bob Dole's wife, who threw herself so prominently into his unsuccessful 1986 bid for the White House, succeed where her husband failed? Will America have its first female President?

For all the delighted speculation, the answer is almost certainly no. The barrier is not the national reluctance to elect a woman as its head. For sure, that exists, but is shrinking, and no longer seems insurmountable. The greater problem, in Mrs Dole's case, is that she is second-rate. If Elizabeth Hanford Dole, 62, ran for the Republican presidential nomination, she would be only the second woman to do so. The first, Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, in 1964, won only 225,000 primary votes.

But it is not just novelty which has generated the buzz around Mrs Dole this week. Repeated polls of Republican voters put her second only to George W. Bush, son of the former President, as the most popular candidate. A Harvard-educated lawyer from North Carolina, she can claim to know Washington from the inside; she worked in non-elected positions in six Administrations, including Deputy Assistant for Consumer Affairs for President Nixon, Secretary of Transportation under President Reagan and Secretary of Labour under President Bush.

She won rave reviews for her speech at the 1996 Republican National Convention, and won more airtime in championing her husband in his 1996 campaign. She is thought easily capable of raising the $25 million or so needed for the primary election campaign. A born-again Christian, she has a stronger appeal to the Religious Right than George W. Bush.

She can offer her party its long-sought solution to the "gender gap" — women's relative antipathy to Republicanism. Not least, and with more subtle appeal than the Clintons' 1992 slogan of "two for the price of one", she offers the reassuring backdrop of her widely liked husband.

But Mrs Dole's shortcomings are also glaring. She has never before sought elective office, nor been forced to spell out her policies in detail. Nor are those policies clear, beyond her opposition to abortion. Originally a Democrat, she became an Independent during the Nixon Administration and converted to Republicanism on marrying Bob Dole. A campaign would also reopen scrutiny of her past financial dealings, particularly gains she is said to have made in the 1980s from having her personal finances handled by an adviser who had close knowledge of legislation her husband was helping to craft.

But above all, you could not call her a natural politician. Known for conscientious over-preparation, there is something of the Harriet Harman about her. As *Time* magazine put it: "Elizabeth never gets a word or pause or chuckle out of place, but she can no more ad lib than levitate." Even when cast in the role of top executive, she plays it as head girl: she once greeted employees in the parking lot with a Stop sign so that she could check their seatbelts.

> The real problem is, she is untried and second-rate

The message she sends is confusing: ten parts Southern girlishness, with a doll-like fringe, to one part steely executive. She has fashioned a saccharine style, helped by her honeyed accent, which has prompted one conservative commentator to note: "A warning should be passed out to diabetics — after ten minutes, they'll suffer from sugar shock."

So while she is often compared with Hillary Clinton, the First Lady is in a different league. True, there are similarities: both are Methodists, were raised in comfortable middle-class surroundings, and trained as lawyers. But there is a chasm between the diffidence and evasiveness of the 1950s-style Southern belle, and the purposefulness of Hillary's Chicago-honed, 1960s passions.

Mrs Dole's stiltedness should not, however, lead observers to exaggerate the barriers to a woman becoming President. The conservatism of many Americans about women's role, despite the vigour of the feminist movement, remains one of the country's paradoxes. But as the polls have shown this week, voters' feelings are changing. Many seem now to feel they could live with a female President, particularly a Republican, who would not seem as offputtingly radical as a Democrat.

It would be a shame if Mrs Dole's near-certain failure to win the party's nomination led observers — or future candidates — to overestimate the barriers to women. She could, perhaps more plausibly, aim to become America's first female Vice-President. As running-mate to George W. Bush, she would bring balance to the Texan's ticket.

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"TAKE THIS... IT'LL DO YOU A POWER OF GOOD..."

Herrs to the revolution

Perry Anderson on the former student radicals who will rule in Berlin

This will be Berlin's year. A new German Government is moving to an old German capital. But what sort of Government, and what sort of city?

Conventional wisdom compares Gerhard Schröder with Tony Blair. One genuine point in common is that both were picked as candidates by the media before they were chosen by their party. The comparison to Blair, in Schröder's case, was part of the anointing process itself. They share telegenic looks and a rhetoric of modernisation. But in some ways the parallels are misleading. With his private schooling, his stint at Oxbridge and his lucrative practice at the Bar, Blair is a typical product of a privileged background.

Schröder, whose father was killed on the Russian Front, comes from the debris of postwar German society. His mother was a charwoman; his first job was in an ironmonger's shop; his degree was eventually obtained at night school. He became a leader of the *Jusos*, the SPD's youth organisation in the early Seventies, when it was well to the Left of the party, and took active part in mass demonstrations. The aura of moderate pragmatism is quite recent. But there is no lack of charm: sturdy good looks, attractive thick voice, mischievous smile. Blair appears an over-eager adolescent by comparison.

The larger difference, however, is institutional. The SPD is not in thrall to its leader. It is a very different party from new Labour. Twice the size, with 700,000 members, it has a culture noticeably more working class. The atmosphere of an SPD rally is closer to Labour meetings of the Sixties or Seventies than to anything in Britain today. Trade unions in Germany weathered the Eighties better, and enjoy stronger relations with the party. A still more important difference between the two organisations lies in the regional distribution of power in the SPD.

Germany's federal structure means that political careers are made first and foremost in the *Lander*. Schröder, catapulted within six months of winning a provincial election in Hanover to leadership of the country, is entitled to his party's gratitude. But he has no deep-rooted following within it. Indeed, he was widely distrusted, the party's attitude recalling the view expressed by Claud Cockburn that "charm and dependability so rarely go together".

The members' favourite remains Oskar Lafontaine, whose skill, charisma and discipline galvanised the SPD machine in the years of Helmut Kohl's decline. Lafontaine was another postwar orphan from a poor family, educated by Jesuits in the Saar, who became the brightest of his generation of SPD politicians.

He is intellectually better prepared than Schröder, with more decided views. As Minister of Finance, and SPD chairman, his position is unusually strong. Lafontaine is the first Western politician of aggressively Keynesian outlook in 25 years. He has already seen off Schröder's attempt to install a wan version of Richard Branson as Economics Minister and shaken the Bundesbank.

The direction of the Government, of course, will not be set by the SPD alone. The rules of any German coalition give significant leverage to the lesser partner. The Greens are likely to pull the Government in less conventional directions than social democracy, left to its own devices, would follow.

> The map of Berlin is defined in varying shades of red

The figure of Joschka Fischer, the Green Foreign Minister, indicates why this should be so. Son of another victim of the war, a labourer expelled from Bohemia in 1946, he is a survivor of the student radicalism of the Sixties. In those years, he led one of the most daring "spontaneist" groups in Frankfurt. With others, he took a job on the assembly line in an Opel factory to rouse the working class to revolt. When management flushed them out, Fischer turned to the squatters' movement in Frankfurt, organising a mobile strike force, the *Putztruppe*, to block police action against housing occupations, matching violence with violence where need be.

Eventually a demonstration against the death of Ulrike Meinhof in 1976 got out of hand and a policeman was nearly killed. Fischer was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, but released for lack of evidence. Changing his mind about the legitimacy of civil violence, he spent some years driving a cab and dabbling in philosophy, then joined the Greens and quickly rose to the top as their most flexible and articulate leader.

Fischer's career can be seen as in many ways emblematic. He is the first chemically pure product of 1968 to become a front-rank politician in Western Europe. The revolt of that year left deeper and more durable traces in German society than anywhere else. The mass movements were more spectacular in France and Italy, but they did not have the same cultural staying-power.

Three features set the German upheaval apart. Morally, the awakening of '68 was also a first attempt to settle accounts with the national past, as a generation started to discover and confront the record of its parents in the Nazi years. Intellectually, the revolt drew on a much richer complex of indigenous ideas than its counterparts elsewhere. The students who triggered the movement read Marx with the ease and lack of distance that we associate with reading Smith or Mill. Moreover, the radical Frankfurt School occupied a unique position within the generally conservative culture of the Federal Republic. There was no body of social and philosophical work remotely rivalling its influence.

Finally, there was a strain in the national culture at large that relayed the momentum of the late Sixties and early Seventies into the Green movement a decade later. This was, of course, the long tradition of German Romanticism, interpreted broadly, from Werther to Wenders, the most enduring strand in the sensibility of the country's intelligentsia.

In a great variety of different registers, two motifs remained constant: an acute sense of the mystery of the natural world, and of the high calling of youth. The Greens are the populist heirs to this tradition. The revolutionary ferment of '68, however Utopian, was on such a scale that when it ebbed, it left behind a rich fenland of counter-cultural enclaves in West Germany. Here the environmental concerns of the Eighties found a natural habitat. Germany is the one country where the question of what has ultimately become of the experience of '68 will be put to a direct test.

The reinstating of Berlin as the capital next year will, if anything, only underline this progressive turn to the Left.

No European city has accreted so many misleading legends as Berlin. To resist them is easier, however, than to capture the elusive realities now taking shape behind them. Most people associate Berlin with Prussian military tradition, Bismarck's autocracy, Nazi violence and megalomania. In fact, Frederick II preferred his complex in Potsdam. Bismarck disliked Berlin so much that, after unification, he wanted to make Kassel the capital of the country. No prominent Nazi came from Berlin.

Berlin was not a natural setting for reaction. In 1848 it saw the hardest fighting at the barricades of any city in Germany. By the turn of the century, it was the most industrialised capital in Europe, with a working-class population to match. It led the November Revolution and was the scene of the Spartakist Rising. In the Weimar period, it was a left-wing stronghold.

The Third Reich and the Cold War cut off these traditions. After Hitler's fall, the division of Berlin masked the question of what, if any, underlying continuities might have survived. The 1998 elections offer a startling answer. The Left won every single district. The map of the city is just one colour, in two shades: bright Social Democratic red in the west and southeast, deep post-Communist red in the centre and northeast.

Compare Paris, a permanent fief of the Right; Rome, where Fini's ex-Fascists are the largest party; or even London, where Ken Livingstone will never sweep Westminster or Kensington. Bismarck's nightmare has come true. Berlin is going to be the most left-wing capital in Europe.

This is an edited version of an article in the current edition of the London Review of Books.

comment@the-times.co.uk

These we have missed

Let's celebrate our living legends, says **Giles Coren**

The loss of not one but two singing cowboys in 1998 was dismissed by most of us as one of death's little ironies. The Grim Reaper seemed to be struggling — very much against the grain of his specific remit — to bring off something rather witty with a couple of finely chosen sweeps of his scythe. Something, at any rate, worthy of a Wildean aphorism.

Once the laugher had died down, however, and it came time, on new year's morning, to leaf through the colour mags' annual double-page offerings of the past 12 months' most significant croaks, it was not so much the fact that Gene Autry and Roy Rogers were no longer with us that seemed difficult to grasp, as the fact that, until so very recently, they had actually been walking about exchanging pleasantries with the neighbours, burning their tongues on too-hot coffee and banging their toes on doors and bed legs.

I was hurled back instantaneously to the Christmas of 1994, when, grazing through that year's grim selection of inch-square celebrity grins (they wouldn't have been smiling if they'd known), I was moved to call out to my girlfriend in the bathroom: "Did you know that Eugene Ionesco had died?"

A disbelieving head popped round the door, and she gurgled through lips that frothed, with toothpaste I assumed, rather than with indignation at the loss inflicted upon France's tradition of Absurdist theatre:

"Ionesco was alive?"

I felt similarly this year about Maureen O'Sullivan, Martha Gellhorn, and Ferdinand Porsche, and last year, almost cripplingly, about Laurie Lee. What a waste that they should have been alive, and we didn't know.

Still sweating a little at the near-vitality of those two stetsoned crooners, I flew to my books, computer and telephone. If they had been alive, then so, too, might others have been. Was it possible, for example, that the greatest cowboy of them all rode on? There, at *www.loneranger.com*, was confirmation: "Clayton Moore will be 85 in September." I ran round the house singing Rossini's most famous overture until it hurt (Rossini is dead, by the way).

1999 had begun as well as I could have dreamt. This is what the supplements should be giving us — not lists of those who are dead, but those who struggle on.

Let us not weep at the passing of Alice Faye, but celebrate the continued good health of 91-year-old Fay Wray. We have lost Frank Muir, but there is still time to write fan letters to Denis Norden. Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney are still here. Don't wait for grainy photos of their knobbly knees and hobnailed football boots to tell you they have gone. Shirley Temple is alive, and Don Bradman, and Buzz Aldrin and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and Evel Knievel. Desert Orchid, now 19, had a trot out on Boxing Day before the King George VI at Kempton Park, and looked in fine fettle. There are still 13 of the original Munchkins on the planet, you know.

Don't walk around glum that every year wipes out another handful of Carry On stars — we still have Barbara Windsor, Jim Dale and Joan Sims. Apart from Steve McQueen and Yul Brynner, we still have most of the Magnificent Seven. Well, I can't seem to track down Brad Dexter, as such. But that is probably a good sign.

And there is philosophy in all of this. It may be a fortnight late for Christian consolations, but ask yourself, is Frank Sinatra really any less alive than Bob Hope? We have come full circle in this age of celebrity, and arrived back at a point where we should be able to accept that death really is only a shuffling off of the mortal coil, for 6ft of earth cannot dent record sales, or prevent the television repeats of MGM musicals.

The dead will always have their moment. It is the living who need our attention. I look forward to a time when Peter Sissons will introduce the last item on the news by lowering his voice a little, looking very seriously at the camera, and saying: "Finally, Mike Yarwood, the comedian whose impression of Harold Wilson made him a household name in the 1970s, and who for many represents the last of a forgotten breed in British television, was still alive yesterday at his home in Surrey. He is not even ill. He was not on stage at the time. The world of light entertainment is not in mourning. Mr Yarwood is 57."

Alan Coren is away.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Oh my lord

AMONG the more startling disclosures expected in the forthcoming biography of Peter Mandelson, *Mandy*, is that the former minister calls his mother "Duchess". He shares this peculiar practice, I gather, with his fellow bachelor, the disc spinner Sir Jimmy Savile (pictured right), as well as those princes of darkness, the Krays. Social commentators and psychologists are pondering why he cannot make do with "Mary". The former Labour MP and psycho-babbler Leo Abse believes it tells us rather a lot about Wendy's ambition.

"Duchesses have sons who are earls and counts," he says. "No doubt it reinforces his delusions of grandeur. Another indication is that he idolises his mother and is bound to her to such an excessive extent that he can't be bound to other women." Lord Hattersley, like Savile, from South Yorkshire, says it is an unusual name even for ferret fanciers. "I've never heard anyone use it where I come from. If I called my mother that, she would think I had gone crackers. It is more Cockney than Yorkshire, and used by people who have an unnatural interest in duchesses."

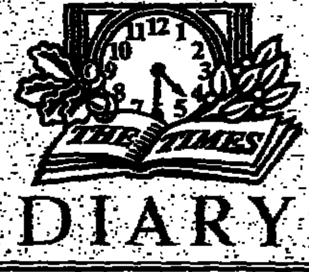
Anthony Clare, the radio quack, suggests it reflects the aspirations of Wendy as much as Mary — "a powerful figure in his life, although his house could easily be the home of a duchess".

Jean Aitchison, a Professor of Language at Oxford, suspects



inspiration from *Alice in Wonderland*: "The duchess says 'I beat my little boy when he sneezes'." And Jonathon Green, slang aficionado, says: "It is proletarian, possibly East End Jewish. It first arose in the 17th century to describe a good-looking, vulgar woman."

● *AFTER my little scoop on birds nesting at the Dome, I am reminded that the Great Exhibition, the Dome's illustrious forebear, suffered similarly. The Duke of Wellington suggested to Queen*



Victoria: "Try sparrowhawks, Ma'am!" Perhaps Lord Falconer of Thoroton should do likewise.

Toff nosing

SEND for the toffs: the latest cry of William Hague after he axed Viscount Cranborne. After his flirtation with the Church, the Tory leader has trained his field-glasses on the green welly tendency. "I could not help noticing that when the Green movement was at its most vociferous at the end of the 1980s," he will say in a forthcoming paper, "we had Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, which were run by an Old Etonian hereditary peer and an Old Etonian baronet respectively. That was in stark contrast to the Conservative Party."

It will take a lot more than these pronouncements, I fear, to make Rotherham Man smart.

● *BILLY ZANE, the panto baddie husband to Kate Winslet in* Titanic, *clearly thinks he has the director's eye. On a visit to the Chelsea Cinema, he stormed out, yelling that the screen was blurred. Staff found that the film was out of focus — a detail the one-eyed projectionist had failed to spot.*

Opening time

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S haunt has been chilled by a blast of feminism.



"My grandfather says he once saw an absentee landlord"

Edinburgh's Speculative Society, the university debating and dining club which has succoured males since 1764, including the Duke of Edinburgh, is being challenged to open its gates to women. There is even talk of legal action.

"It is an old boys' club and an anachronism," says Sandra Eden, a law lecturer. She demands that the club, which Robert Louis Stevenson called "the best thing in Edinburgh", allows her into its rooms to join the candlelight discussions. The university promises to "investigate".

● *OXFORD is considering hiring security guards to keep out students refusing to pay tuition fees. The 12 rebels have been told that unless they pay £1,000 by next week, they will be banned from every quad and spire. But it admits that without guards it will be impossible to keep the students from lectures. Such a move would offend liberal dons; but otherwise other students might consider the university toothless and join the rebels. A conundrum, indeed.*

Narky Parky

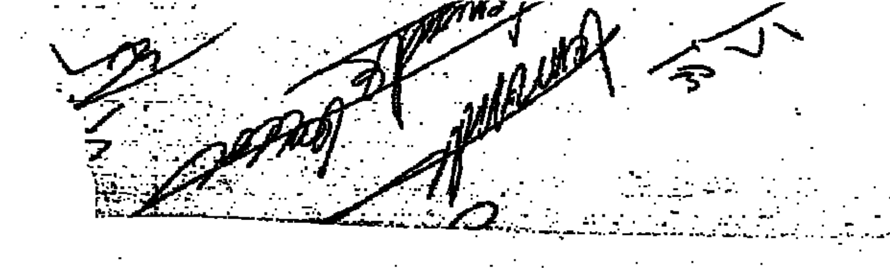
THE man who put the chit into chat, Michael Parkinson, is scathing about the new breed of decorative televisual hosts. Melin-

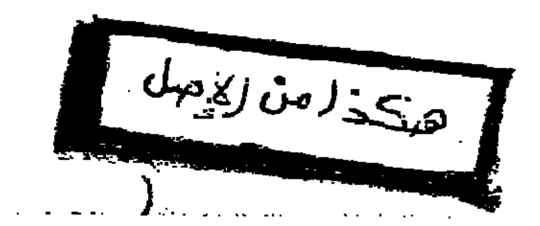


da Messenger, the blonde belter who has traded modelling for a career of sorts on Channel 5, comes in for particular criticism.

Simply, he believes she is not up to the job. "You've got to train," he says sternly. "Take the producers who gave a talk show to her. Supposing I went along to them and said: 'By the way, you are the executive producer — I'm giving your job to Kylie Minogue [above].' What would they say?" Is Parky feeling insecure?

JASPER GERARD







CREATURES OF EUROLAND

Serpents lurk in the lush euro-pastures extolled by politicians

In Europe's financial centres this week, the euro has made a suave entry. That by no means assures future success. On the streets, euro-11 citizens are being exhorted by jubilant politicians and glossy brochures to revel in a "new era for Europe". So far, so painless; and so abstract. Since consumers will go on using their national coinage until 2002, the momentous irreversibility of what has just occurred has yet to sink in. So has the realisation that the advent of what is still a virtual currency cannot gurantee more jobs, a surge in growth or greater unity of political purpose among euroland's 11 members.

On the contrary, as is clear from our recent series on euroland's fault-lines, the euro's chief potential advantage, the transparency it will bring to commerce and to relative economic performance, will throw into sharp relief a host of tensions — between the EU's North and South, town and country, old and young, dynamic zones and the Belgian or French rustbelts, between Dutch high technology and no-hope lands in east Germany and Italy's south, between the sluggish core and the overheating Irish or Spanish "periphery".

This is far from being an optimal currency zone with compatible characteristics and needs. Despite strenuous efforts to close the gaps on public debt, deficits and inflation — efforts that will be politically hard to sustain now that victory has so resoundingly and prematurely been declared — huge disparities remain between and within countries. Farming, industry and services have very different weights in national GDPs. Unemployment is nil in Luxembourg and 19 per cent in Spain, where wages are half those in Germany.

Yet a single exchange rate and monetary policy must now fit all; and when only Finland and Luxembourg have public debt ratios below Maastricht's 60 per cent threshold and Belgium's and Italy's are more than double, there is little fiscal leeway. So flexible labour markets will have to compensate for lost autonomy. Yet few governments are prepared to take the political heat of rapid deregulation. The euro could, as its fans claim, make the EU more competitive; but that would risk social unrest which, in France and east Germany, could turn violent. If pan-European producers migrated to low-cost areas, for example, this could in theory drag down labour costs at the core. In practice, France and Germany would demand tax, social security and wage harmonisation to combat "social dumping". For the Mezzogiorno, that would be the kiss of death.

Euroland's publics are ill-prepared, because ill-informed, for trouble ahead. Leaders bent on an elitist project, which has throughout ruthlessly disdained the need for democratic assent, have attacked sceptics as unpatriotic, while presenting the euro as a panacea for every European ill. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, even asserts that the euro will make the EU the world's fastest growing region this year — a rash boast when Italy has downgraded its estimates to 1.8 per cent, and German growth could slow to a miserable 1.4 per cent. As for France's boast that the euro will mark "a new age in job creation", IMF simulations indicate that even if eurozone governments free up labour markets far more aggressively than most intend, by 2010 the euro will have cut dole queues by just 2 per cent. Without such flexibility, it expects unemployment to rise by then by 2 per cent.

The consequences could be explosive. That is why politicians, desperate for faster growth, are already on collision course against the European Central Bank which, by their own design, is statutorily immune to political pressure and barred by treaty from diluting its anti-inflationary mandate. Inflation already threatens the periphery; but the core countries need low interest rates and tight fiscal policy. They may well get the opposite. If Red-Green Germany, no longer an anchor of fiscal conservatism, overspends, the ECB could raise interest rates excessively as a show of strength.

Never in history has a multinational currency union succeeded. The EU has embarked on this unprecedentedly risky experiment with only a shallow, largely passive, consensus. Elites may feel more "European"; but as 2002 nears and people confront the trauma of pulping currencies that form part of their sense of history and community, they may turn more, not less nationalist. In the lush euro-uplands of political rhetoric, lurk serpents of popular resentment ready to bite their masters' heels. It will take many years to find out whether these beasts can be truly tamed.

A SCOTTISH LANDSLIDE

Dewar plays on the pipes of auld resentment

In Scotland a mix of politics and populist sentiment ferment into a headstrong brew. Almost two centuries have passed since the Highland Clearances, when rapacious Scottish landowners forcibly evicted thousands of crofters so as to turn their estates over to more profitable sheep farming. But, in the national imagination, resentment of this historical cruelty still festers. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, was intent on soothing old grudges when he allowed land reform to rise to the top of his legislative agenda and, just over a year ago, set up the Land Reform Policy Group. But Mr Dewar was responding to more than merely nostalgic pressures yesterday when he unveiled a plan claimed by Labour to be the most important shake-up to land ownership since the Middle Ages. In Scotland, polls show the Labour Party increasingly threatened by nationalist sentiment. Mr Dewar hopes his radical proposals will compete with the Scottish National Party and thwart its further rise.

Certain aspects of the Scottish system of land tenure need overhauling. Medieval feudalism, long ended in England, endures in Scotland. Estate owners are feudal superiors, with rights and proscriptions over their vassals. This antiquated form of tenure is open to abuse. But the Land Reform Policy Group delegates specific responsibility for feudal reform to the Scottish Law Commission. Instead, its inquiries have addressed the emotive issue of largescale land ownership.

The possession of sweeping Scottish estates by aristocrats, the English and foreigners arouses animosity. Those who live and work on the land can find their farms sold from under their feet without consultation or warning. Under the stewardship of a few notorious absentees, estates degenerate into depopulated wastelands, local communities wither and disperse. But several, more responsible landowners keep the economies of otherwise unviable tracts of land alive. Shooting and fishing provide seasonal employment, vast integral estates provide a haven for wildlife, bringing valuable tourist income to their isolated communities.

Mr Dewar may hope to seduce the Scottish electorate. But his proposals to enable compulsory government purchase of mismanaged estates are rashly inflammatory. Irresponsible lairds could be deterred by a few, carefully aimed reforms, such as the establishment of an accessible register of land owners or legally enforceable minimum upkeep requirements. Several of Mr Dewar's ideas will prove, when debated in the Scottish Parliament, to be sensible components of gradual reform. They will lead to increased diversity of land use, and offer Scottish people greater involvement in running their communities. But in playing to the nationalist grandstand, Mr Dewar not only risks pointlessly exacerbating divisions between land owners and tenants, but shows that the winning of party political advantage in this emotive issue has become as covetous and expedient as the Clearances ever were.

RELATIVE TRUST

Disturbing allegations of 'backdoor' euthanasia

Doctors today need to be as expert in ethics as anatomy. Fine judgments about the balance between relieving pain and preserving life are among the most difficult they have to face. Confronted with an elderly man who writhes in agony, a doctor might well feel it necessary to sedate him. Some doctors, however, are accused today of seeing sedation as more than just a temporary relief from pain.

Patients' children have noted that their parents have suffered from dehydration after sedation, and then died from an infection. The cry has been raised that doctors are allowing "backdoor euthanasia". Physicians argue they have simply been trying to ease suffering. As we report, there is a disturbing trend of such cases in Britain's hospitals. A thorough investigation of these deaths and clear guidance for doctors on the use of sedatives is essential if the medical profession is to avoid accusations of allowing doctors to play God with their patients.

While doctors treating patients in a persistent vegetative state must refer their case to the courts before switching off any life support-system or denying them food and water, doctors whose patients have common illnesses are left to "exercise their clinical judgment". Some, it seems, sedate their patients and deprive them of food and water — allegedly without the patient's authorisation or that of his or her family. If a patient dies, the death certificate will commonly state that the cause of death was the underlying medical condition, not dehydration. This lack of regulation and transparency must be addressed.

The British Medical Association is currently consulting its members on the guidelines surrounding this practice. It should recommend greater clarity in the way doctors make decisions about a patient's treatment, and how they communicate that decision to the patient or his family. If doctors are expected to refer a case of patient in a permanent vegetative state to the courts, why should they not be expected to do the same for other patients?

Yet this debate must not obscure the more crucial question. Why were doctors sedating their patients? There appear to be a multitude of reasons, depending on the specific circumstances. Whatever the case, the BMA should decide whether it is ethically right to help nature to take its course.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Educating children about 'soft' and 'hard' drugs

From the Chief Executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse

Sir, You report (January 2) that Keith Hellawell, the UK Anti-Drugs Coordinator is questioning the effectiveness of education about drug use.

In the Government's White Paper, *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain*, published last April, ten Secretaries of State said:

Action will be concentrated in areas of greatest need and risk. All drugs are harmful . . . And we will focus on those that cause the greatest damage including heroin and cocaine.

It is simply not true to say that drug education has "not worked". It is becoming clearer from research that drug education, delivered in the proper context and in the appropriate way, has the potential to reduce drug misuse or at least to delay the onset of experimentation. This in turn is more likely to reduce the prospect of a young person's drug use turning into a more harmful and risky dependent use.

Following the White Paper, the Department for Education and Employment published guidance to schools and the youth service on good practice and drug education, *Protecting Young People*. In his foreword to the guidance, Keith Hellawell said:

Many schools have already established their drug education policies. Many examples of good practice have emerged. We need now to share this information and encourage all schools to take note of best practice . . .

As Mr Hellawell will be aware, the national curriculum is under review and advisers and ministers are already considering the future role of personal, social and health education, including drug education. This will undoubtedly reinforce the need for a comprehensive programme to be delivered to all young people from age five onwards.

Keith Hellawell and the Government need to recognise that throughout the world there is no drugs education programme that can absolutely guarantee to stop young people from ever taking drugs. If that is the sole objective, then the policy will fail. The aim has to be to reduce the damage that misuse of drugs can cause our young people.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HOWARD,
Chief Executive,
Standing Conference on Drug Abuse,
32-36 Loman Street, SE1 0EE.
January 4.

From Dr Richard Cookson

Sir, Keith Hellawell wants schoolteachers to stop talking to British children about "soft" drugs. But will this change in policy actually succeed in preventing children from taking Ecstacy and cannabis? The truth is that nobody knows — and we may be missing an excellent opportunity to find out.

A rigorously designed scientific trial of this new drugs education campaign should be carried out in a carefully selected region of Britain. Over time, scientists could compare drug-taking behaviour in this region with drug-taking behaviour in other regions. This would provide high-quality scientific evidence about what form of drugs education campaign works best, which would be of genuine and lasting value in dealing with the British drugs problem.

A blanket change in drugs education policy across the whole of Britain will not provide useful scientific evidence, because scientists will not be able to disentangle the effects (if any) of Hellawell's policy from those of all the other possible influences on drug-taking behaviour. And all the old drugs arguments will continue, based not on scientific evidence but on the usual heady mixture of gut instinct, ideology and the understandable political pressures on the "drug czar" to be seen to be doing something.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD COOKSON,
LSE Health,
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.
r.cookson@lse.ac.uk
January 2.

From Father Jim Duffy

Sir, My confidence in drug czar Keith Hellawell took a knock when I read that he was proposing that "reformed drug users could be used in more schools to give talks to pupils". Does he not realise that impressionable and immature, over-confident, young people, particularly those at greatest risk, will take one look at a reformed user or addict lecturing them about the dangers of drug use and say to themselves, "If he or she can kick the habit, so could I."

Keep reformed users out of the schools. Users or addicts who have failed to kick the habit and who are still not in control of their lives would be far more effective.

Yours sincerely,
JIM DUFFY,
5 Park Road, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire WD3 1HU.

From Mr A. J. Turner

Sir, You report that "there will be no jobs . . . in the Army or the police force" for those with a record of drug-related offences.

As the professionals who most influence youngsters are teachers and youth workers, perhaps that prohibition should be extended to them.

Your obedient servant,
ANDREW TURNER
(Vice-Chairman, Conservative National Education Society),
2 Northwood Place,
Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7TN.
January 2.

Roman dates lead to Latin headache

From Sir George Engle, QC

Sir, Writing 1999 in Roman numerals has its problems (report and leading article, January 1); but *saying* it in Latin, unless I am mistaken, needed no less than 11 syllables, viz *mille nongenti nonaginta novem*. This makes the French *mille neuf cent quatre-vingt dix-neuf* (eight syllables) look comparatively economical; but our almost telegraphese "nineteen ninety-nine" (five syllables) is the clear winner for brevity.

I have always wondered why the French have had the patience to put up for so long with *quatre-vingt dix-neuf* for 99 in everyday speech. The answer seems to be that it is a legacy from Caesar's conquest of Gaul.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6 5UB.
January 1.

From Mr Andrew Laurie

Sir, MDCCCCLXXXXVIIII or MIM? It comes as no surprise to read that Roman bureaucrats would have preferred to pepper their documents with long-windedness.

Museums around here are full of inscriptions made by those Romans who had better things to do (like defending the Empire) and so used abbreviations.

MIM will do fine for me.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW LAURIE,
VII St Oswald's Road, Hexham,
Northumberland NEXLVI IIHF.
andrew.laurie@virgin.net
January 1.

From Mr Norman Sanders

Sir, "We shall all know what we will celebrate in the year MM," you tell us. Most certainly. The number MM is a nice round soft landing — an easily recognised end to two millennia — whereas its successor, MMI, is an asymmetrical upstart, an appropriate intrusion signifying the start of another millennium.

The Roman system — which didn't contain a zero — offers indisputable evidence that the Government, the BBC, the Churches, the hoteliers and even *The Times* have got it wrong by a year.

There's hope yet that the Jubilee Line will be on time.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN SANDERS,
Walnut Tree Cottage,
Tattingstone Park, Ipswich IP9 2NF.
norman_sanders@compuserve.com
January 1.

From Mr Neil Roberts

Sir, Your reporter seems to have his emperors confused.

There was no Emperor Flavius, although Flavius was the family name of a dynasty of emperors. Work on building the Colosseum in Rome (known as the Flavian Colosseum rather than Flavius's Colosseum) was started by Vespasian, the first Flavian Emperor, and completed by his son Titus, the second.

Yours,
NEIL ROBERTS,
18 Chesham Street,
Brighton, East Sussex BN2 1NA.
nrob@pavilion.co.uk

From Mrs Helga Harrison

Sir, Wouldn't even a dying Caesar have remembered the vocative and cried "Et tu Brute", not "Et tu Brutus" (as in your headline today)?

Yours truly,
HELGA HARRISON,
3 Westfield Lane, St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN37 7NE.
January 1.

From Miss Nan Miller

Sir, That's odd. I thought the clock Rupertedly stood at X to III. How could IIII possibly rhyme with tea?

Yours sincerely,
NAN MILLER,
35 Love Lane,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1JD.
January 1.

Peace in Cyprus

From Mr George Christodoulou

Sir, As a Cypriot whose ethnic background is Greek, I would like to respond to Mr Osman Streater (letter, January 4).

I have never made the distinction between Greek and Turkish Cypriots because I believe that this distinction has greatly assisted in creating the present situation. Recalling times before the invasion by Turkey my own experiences are that both communities coexisted on the island peacefully. However, I believe the attitude towards Turks from the mainland was and is altogether different.

Now that there has been a great import of mainland Turks to northern Cyprus it would be very difficult for the island to be integrated. Therefore separation may be the only peaceful solution. However, Osman Streater compares a mutually agreed exchange of population in 1923 with an invasion in 1974 which resulted in loss of life, mainly on the Greek side.

At that time Turkish Cypriots made up approximately 18 per cent of the population. Now mainland Turkey holds over 40 per cent of the island. Surely a statesmanlike response from Turkey would be to return some land as a positive move towards lasting peace.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CHRISTODOULOU,
57 The Broadway, NW7 3DA.
January 4.

Mandelson resignation

From Mr William Hamilton

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg compares Peter Mandelson's case with examples from history ("The noble tradition of British risk-takers", January 4).

The point, surely, is that standards are stricter now, and that Mandelson's conduct as a minister was in breach of guidelines which his Government had endorsed, and which his party had assured the electorate it would observe if elected.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HAMILTON,
Pine Cottage, Fernhurst,
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3EE.
January 4.

Redstarts stop Dome?

From Dr David Carvel

Sir, How delightful it was to read of the humble and endangered black redstart threatening to halt work on the Millennium Dome (report, January 5). I am unsure if Lord Falconer of Thoroton would be the best person to deal with this sensitively.

Is it not poignant that little black redstarts could hold up a massive white elephant?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CARVEL,
13 Edgemont Street,
Shawlands, Glasgow G41 3EH.
carvel@compuserve.com
January 5.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Efficiency resolutions for MPs

From Dr M. J. Burchell

Sir, As a university lecturer I have felt under siege for several years. External audits of my institution's procedures, my teaching, my research, efficiency gains (ie, enforced cuts in income), etc, are never-ending. But whereas I have previously objected to these external attacks on my occupation, I have recently come to understand them better. It has become clear to me that any group of professionals which has control over its own activities and revenues eventually comes to serve its own interests, and not those of the general public.

Given that by its attacks on the various professions the Government seems to share my beliefs, I trust it will rapidly adopt the following:

(1) The annual costs of the House of Commons should be identified. These should include salaries, pensions, heating, maintenance of fabric, full cost of all support staff, etc. There should then be imposed on this cost an annual efficiency gain of 5 per cent. This should last for five years, at which stage further annual efficiency gains should still be imposed.

(2) Parliament should move to a fixed five-year cycle. All MPs should collect statistics on their own performance during the life of a Parliament, including attendance record, voting record, number of speeches given, number of amendments moved, number of laws introduced or passed, number of constituents' letters answered, etc. At the end of the cycle these statistics should be assessed by an external, independent body who will award each MP a rating 1 to 5 as appropriate. These ratings should be published in time for the elections to the next Parliament. To prevent MPs playing the system, the rules of this assessment should be changed every Parliament and published only two thirds of the way through a Parliament.

Given the Prime Minister's evident desire for constitutional reform, I look forward to rapid adoption of my proposals.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BURCHELL,
121b Whitstable Road,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NR.
m.j.burchell@ukc.ac.uk
January 3.

Below the waves

From Mr James Benson

Sir, Your obituary of Captain William Meeke (December 29), while rightly applauding the ground-breaking contribution he made to the development of the first X-craft in 1942-43, was incorrect in two of its references to those craft.

First, these were four-man submarines, not two-man. Second, the prospects of an X-craft's crew returning safely from an attack were not limited to "escaping from the X-craft and making for the surface".

The explosive charges that one dropped beneath the keel of one's target were fitted with time-clocks affording up to an eight-hour delay before the four tons of Amatol exploded.

Even at a submerged speed of only one-and-a-half to two knots this still enabled these 5ft diameter craft to get well clear, as witness the successful attacks and returns to base achieved by several of Meeke's successors — among them Max Shean (X 24, Bergen, April 1944), the late Percy Westmacott (X 24, Bergen, September 1944) and Ian Fraser (XE 3, Singapore, July 1945).

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BENSON
(Co-author, *Above Us The Waves*, Harrap, 1953),
64 Harley House,
Marylebone Road, NW1 5HL.
December 29.

Addressing postcodes

From Mr M. G. Harman

Sir, Why should addresses contain more than the postcode, asks Mr Ray Perkins (letter, December 28; see also letters, January 1)? The simple answer is redundancy.

A single error in any character in a postcode will generally be correctable only with great difficulty, if at all, whereas clerical errors in ordinary addresses are often corrected subconsciously without even being noticed.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HARMAN,
Holmwood, 37 Upper Park Road,
Camberley, Surrey GU15 2EG.
January 2.

From Dr Tony Pearson

Sir, Mr Perkins will be pleased to know that I routinely use just a name and postcode on envelopes, sometimes with the first line of an address. The Post Office never fails to deliver.

Still, postcodes can be unnecessarily lengthy. I once sent a postcard from the United States bearing a friend's name and the address: IoW, UK. It reached its destination.

Yours etc,
TONY PEARSON,
Poplar Farm, IP31 3SL.

From Mrs M. D. Wicks

Sir, I believe there is every reason to use our village and county when addressing envelopes.

Many of us in East Cornwall refuse to use the Plymouth, Devon, postcode we have been given, which does not reflect our area.

Businesses assume, on the basis of the code, that we are city dwellers and quote prices accordingly, and quite unfairly, particularly for services such as car insurance.

Yours sincerely,
M. D. WICKS,
Tresco, Calstock Road,
Gunnislake, Cornwall.
January 2.

From Mr Barrie Jenks

Sir, Sir Francis Beaufort would request that Reg Gale (letter, January 1) should either change his surname to Storm, or move next door to number eight so that his postcode address would be "meteorologically" correct, ie, Gale Force Eight or Storm Force Ten.

Yours faithfully,
BARRIE JENKS,
Bromsgrove Boaters, Norvencliffe,
Redcliffe Street, Worcester WR3 7AP.
barriejenks@compuserve.com
January 1.

Web site

From Mr H. G. Dyke

Sir, My spider adheres rigidly to the Highway Code (letter, December 26).

He(?) spins his web at traffic lights or junctions, returning to the corner of the wing-mirror when the car moves off, thus causing no distraction.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD DYKE,
Avondale,
Alexander Place, Abercanaid,
Nr Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1SJ.
December 27.

Present and correct

From Mr Ian Rae

Sir, For once I got a rather good shirt and tie for Christmas, so I tried them on and showed my wife.

The verdict? "You look different when you're clean."

Yours dazzlingly,
IAN RAE,
The Doctor's House,
1257 Bristol Road South,
Northfield, Birmingham B31 2SW.
December 29.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 5: The Duke of York this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Neil Baverstock at Sunninghill Park upon relinquishing command of 9th (County Antrim) Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment. His Royal Highness also received Lieutenant Colonel Willem Buckley upon assuming command of 9th (County Antrim) Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment.

January 5: The Prince Edward, Patron, The National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, this evening attended a concert at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Pat Lally). Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

School news

Edgehill College, Devon
Term begins today. The Entrance Examination to the Senior School will be held on Friday, January 29. The Annual Charity Week will begin on Monday, February 22, with the proceeds going to the RSPCA. The Careers Convention will be on Friday, March 5, and the College's production of *The Little Shop of Horrors* will take place at The Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple, on Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10. Term ends on Wednesday, March 24.

The King's School, Canterbury
The Lent term began yesterday. A Confirmation Service will be held in the Cathedral on Sunday, March 7, 1999, at which the Bishop of Maidstone will confirm. Music Scholarship Examinations will take place on February 1 and 2, King's Scholarships on March 1-3, and Art Scholarships on March 4, 1999. Term will end on Saturday, March 20.

Portsmouth Grammar School
Term begins on January 7, 1999. The Chairman of Governors hosts a Twelfth Night Dinner, for the 10 A-level prizewinners of the past two years, in the Square Tower on January 6. The inaugural Dickens Birthday Lecture *Dickens and Murder* will be given by Professor John Carey on February 6, preceded by a Reception at the Dickens Birthplace, the Guest of Honour is the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth. The annual Exhibition takes place in the City Museum and Art Gallery from March 8, at the Private View on March 9 the monograph *A Turner for Portsmouth* will be launched. Governors, staff and pupils will take part in a Charity Talent Show on March 12, to commemorate preprep pupil Angus Gibson, who died last term. The Choral Concert takes place in the Cathedral on March 13. Andrew Saunders and Emily Copsey have been elected as the first holders of sports Exhibitions. Details of all events, including those in the Partnership initiative *The Dickens of a City*, are available from the school.

St Catherine's School, Bramley
Spring term begins today at St Catherine's School, Bramley. Clare Clinton takes up her duties as Head Girl, and Charlotte Edmond as Deputy Head Girl. Auditions for Music scholarships will take place on Saturday, January 9, and assessment for the Sixth Form Art Scholarship on Friday, January 29. The Middle School Concert will be held on Friday, February 5, at 7.30pm in school. The GCSE Options Open Morning (for the parents of girls in Upper 4) will be on February 6. Long Leave is from February 13-21. The school play *The Evacuees* will be performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 11, 12 and 13, in the Speech Hall. Term ends on Thursday, March 25.

Whitgift School
Lent Term beings today and ends on March 31. Lord Kilpatrick of Kincraig, CBE, FRSE, is Guest of Honour at Prizegiving on January 15. The Junior Entrance Examination is on January 21. Haydn's *Creation*, in conjunction with the London Mozart Players, *Whitgift Associate Musicians*, will be performed at Croydon Parish Church on March 24 at 7.30 pm. *Our Town* will be produced at Whitgift on March 25-27. For details of Arts Events please telephone 0181 688 9222 or e-mail: office@whitgift.co.uk.

The Whitgift Foundation is a registered charity and exists for the education of pupils.

Woldingham School
The Spring Term begins at Woldingham School today. The new £9 million Music and Drama Centre will be handed over by the contractors at the end of January and will be in use during the term. The Centre will be officially opened by Mr Chris Patten, CH, on May 5. The term ends on March 26.

GAVIN FOGG



A bust of Leonardo da Vinci is carefully lifted ready to go back in its rightful place in the Central Hall at the Royal Academy, London. The return of the eight plaster busts, which include Michelangelo, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir Christopher Wren, marks the completion of seven months' restoration work on the Central Hall. The restored gallery will be open to the public for the first time when the exhibition *Monet in the 20th Century* opens on January 23

Birthdays today

Major Kenneth Adams, Honorary Fellow, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 79; Mr Malcolm Appleby, engraver, 53; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 44; Mr Paul Azinger, golfer, 39; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 72; Mr Roger Barton, MEP, 54; Mr A.J. Bowkett, chief executive, Berisford International, 48; Sir Ashley Bramall, former chairman, GLC, 83; Sir Robert Clark, former deputy chairman, TSB Group, 75; Mr John Croft, criminologist and oil painter, 76; Mr Angus Deayton, writer and broadcaster, 43; Mr Kapil Dev, cricketer, 40; General Sir Martin Farndale, 70; Sir Hugh Fish, water scientist, 76; Mr Mike Foale, British-born astronaut, 42; Mr Ronald Goldstein, joint founder, Superdrug, 62; Mr Barry John, former rugby player, 54; Mr P.J. Kavanagh, writer, 68; Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, TI Group, 67; Miss Nancy Lopez, golfer, 42; Lord McColl of Dulwich, 66; Sir Hamish Macleod, former Financial Secretary, Hong Kong, 59; Sir Brian Moffat, chairman, British Steel, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Moore, 57; Mr Richard Nerurkar, athlete, 35; Lord Plowden, 92; Mr Bill Sirs, trade unionist, 79; Miss Sylvia Syms, actress, 65; Mr Terry Venables, football manager, 56; Sir Ernest Woodroofe, former chairman, Unilever, 87.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Joan of Arc, Domremy, France, 1412; Jacques Etienne Montgolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1745; Gustave Doré, artist and book illustrator, Strasbourg, 1832; Tom Mix, film actor, El Paso, Texas, 1881.

DEATHS: Fanny Burney, novelist and diarist, London, 1840; Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, Paris, 1852; Gregor Mendel, geneticist, Brno, Czechoslovakia, 1884; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th American President 1901-09, Oyster Bay, New York, 1919; Victor Fleming, film director, Phoenix, Arizona, 1949; A.J. Cronin, novelist, 1981.

Samuel Morse gave the first public demonstration of his electric telegraphic system, 1838.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.C. Boles and Miss D.C. Lewis
The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of the late Mr Vernon Boles and of Mrs Boles, of Clune, Inverness-shire, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim Lewis, of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man.

Mr J.T.S. Chippendale and Miss C.E.J. Hooton
The engagement is announced between Justin, eldest son of Mr Thomas Chippendale, of Chippenham, and Mrs Felicity Royle, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hooton, of Kimpton, Hampshire.

Mr S.P. Gray and Miss A.M.J. Minton Beddoes
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of the late Mr Brian Gray and of Mrs Gray, of Carshalton, Surrey, and Andrea, daughter of Major and Mrs Stewart Minton Beddoes, of Cheney Longville, Shropshire.

Mr O.W. Hall-Craggs and Miss E.J. Baldwin
The engagement is announced between Wade, son of Mr and Mrs John Hall-Craggs, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Grant Baldwin, of Walkerville, South Australia.

Mr A.J.R. Hicks and Miss J.C.E. Eugster
The engagement is announced between Ashley, elder son of Mr and Mrs Keith Hicks, of Sibford Gower, Oxon, and Julia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Eugster, of Langford, Devon.

Mr I.N.H. Jarvis and Miss H.C. Threlfall
The engagement is announced between Ian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Herbert Jarvis, of Bembridge, Isle of Wight, and Chloë, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Threlfall, of Ruyton-XI-Towns, Shropshire.

Mr A.P. Jones and Miss L. Murfin
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Jones, of Dorridge, West Midlands, and Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Dudley Murfin, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Mr J.V. Romeo and Miss A.R.C.A.C. Rice-Evans
The engagement is announced between John Vincent, elder son of Dr and Mrs Anthony A. Romeo, of Manhattan, New York, and Antonia Rebecca, only daughter of Professor Peter and Professor Catherine Rice-Evans, of Primrose Hill, London.

Mr R.A.B. Johnston and Miss A.J. Berg
The engagement is announced between Alasdair, son of Dr and Mrs Jonathan Johnston, of Roquesteron, France, and Amanda, daughter of Dr and Mrs Derek Berg, of Noosa, Queensland.

Mr A.F. Legge and Dr J. Simmonds
The engagement is announced between Antony, son of Mr and Mrs M.H. Legge, of Brailsford, Derbyshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Blatcher, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr P.W.H. McCrum and Miss C.T. Shepherd-Smith
The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of Colonel and Mrs R. McCrum, of Dulwich, London, and Claire, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T.D. Shepherd-Smith, of Ewshot, Hampshire.

Mr A.S. Mewes and Ms S.J. Rolinski
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Mewes, of Dulwich, London, and Sylvia, only daughter of Mrs Kinka Rolinski and the late Mr Zhivko Rolinski, of New York, USA.

Dr R.T. Miles and Miss C. Chaudhary
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Miles, of Ewhurst Green, East Sussex, and Camilla, younger daughter of Mrs Carole Allen and Mr Qayyum Chaudhary, both of Birmingham.

Dr J.R. Payne and Dr J.R. Tennick
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Payne, of Poynton, Cheshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Tennick, of Canterbury, Kent.

Mr I.H. Wallis and Miss J.L. Fleming
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Wallis, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr Hugh Fleming, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Mrs Diana Hodge, of Knebworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr S.M. Whitbread and Miss A.M. Webster
The engagement is announced between Spencer, son of Mr Donald Whitbread, of Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Carole Whitbread, of Chigwell, Essex, and Arabella, daughter of Mr Charles Webster and the late Mrs Webster, of Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr J.V.N. Payne and Miss M.L. Spurling
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Colin Payne, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Miranda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Spurling, of Dockenfield, Farnham.

Mr B. Relf and Miss Z.E. West
The engagement is announced between Barnaby, only son of the late Mr Raymond Relf and of Mrs Relf, of Barnes, London, and Zoë, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John West, of Padworth Common, Berkshire.

Mr J.P. Rose and Miss E.H. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Paul Rose, of Claygate, Surrey, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Miles Roberts, of Taunton, Somerset.

Mr B.W. Rusling and Miss A.G. Castle
The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of the late Mr Kenneth Rusling and of Mrs Anne Rusling, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher R. Castle, of Matfield, Kent.

Mr C.D. Smith-Wright and Miss S.M. Ainsworth
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Smith Wright, of Ramsdell, Hampshire, and Susy, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Ainsworth, of Thaxted, Essex.

Mr R.M. Taylor and Dr V.M. Edwards
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Taylor, of Gearhart, Oregon, and Victoria, youngest daughter of Captain and Mrs G.W.B. Edwards, of Wallasey, Wirral.

Mr N.H. Turpin and Miss W.M. Hawes
The engagement is announced between Neil, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Turpin, of Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey, and Wendy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hawes, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.J.M. Wilkinson and Miss S.J.F. Braddock
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Wilkinson of Repton, Derbyshire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Braddock, of Kirkella, East Yorkshire.

Royal Victorian Order

The Queen has commanded that a service of the Royal Victorian Order is to be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, at 11.00am on Thursday, April 29, 1999, followed by a reception in the State Apartments of Windsor Castle for all Members and Medallists of the Order attending the service.

Owing to the limited seating capacity of St George's Chapel, tickets for the service and reception will be restricted to Members of the Royal Victorian Order and holders of the Royal Victorian Medal only. Please do not apply for tickets for spouses, or other guests, who are not members or Medallists of the Order. Honorary Members and Medallists are not eligible to attend.

Members of the Order and Medallists who wish to attend should apply for a ticket as soon as possible, and not later than Friday, March 12, 1999, clearly stating their name, address and Grade within the Order. They should also state if they require a parking permit. Application should be made to the Registrar of the Royal Victorian Order, The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BH.

PERSONAL COLUMN

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2.9 (CEV).

BIRTHS

AMOS - On November 27th to Bridget and John (né Moores), a daughter, Mary Evangeline Moores, a sister for Dora and Ralph.

ANDREJEVIC - On January 1st at The Portland Hospital to Branka (Prohaska) and Aleksandar, a son, Marko a brother for Vladimir.

BAYNE - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital to Clare and Andrew, a son, Edward Charles Collingwood, a brother for William Frederick.

COKE - to Polly and Tom a daughter on 29th December 1998, Hermione Belinda.

COOK - On December 23rd 1998, to Jane (née Moffat) and Nicholas, a daughter Naomi Rachel, a sister for Jenny and Lucy.

DOUGLAS-HOME - On January 4th, to Alexandra (née Miller) and Sholto, a son, Louis Robin.

ESSE - On Wednesday December 30th 1998, to Elizabeth and William, a daughter, Pollyanna Ophelia Hare, a sister for Barnaby, Otto and Tristan.

GATENBY-TANKARD - On 25th December 1998 to Jacquelyn and Justin, a daughter Lily Caitlin, a lovely sister for Scarlett and Daisy.

GILMOUR - On 1st January 1999, to Clare (née Trent) and Fergus, a son, Archie William, a brother for Olivia.

GRAHAM - On December 28th to Deborah (née McEneff) and Alastair, a son, Findlay David Alexander, a brother for Lewis.

JOHNSTON - On December 29th 1998, to Amanda (née Mason) and Philip, a son, Edward a beautiful brother for Daisy and Christian.

LAWRENCE - To Lesley (neé Foley) and Andrew on 2nd January 1999 a beautiful son, Samuel John March. Praise the Lord!

MEAD - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital to Suling (née Chan) and Scott, twin daughters, Emma and Isabelle, sisters for Betsy, Amanda and Alexander.

MOHINANI - On December 23rd at The Portland Hospital to Mehek (née Pamani Pravin) and Ashok, a son, Sameer.

MOORE - On 22nd December 1998 in London, to Susie (née Hawkins) and Anthony, a son, Matthew Charles.

MOSKOVIC/THOMAS - On 30th December 1998. To Eleanor and Meirion a gift of a beautiful daughter, Dorabella Rachel Verity. "Soave Sia Il Vento".

PALMER - On 28th December to Jane and David, a daughter, Charli Clare, a sister for Mark and Danielle.

BIRTHS

PRYOR - On December 18th at The Portland Hospital to Stephanie Sweeney and Michael Pryor, a daughter, Maisie Sweeney.

RAFFERTY - On December 30th at home to Jane (née Williams) and Patrick, a daughter Madlen Frances Peta Watcyn, a sister for Bethan Caitlin and Angharad.

REARDON SMITH - On 31st December 1998 to Janie (née Rowe) and Giles, a daughter, Sophie Megan Susan.

WHITE - On 8th December to Lisa and Michael a son, George Henry.

DEATHS

ADAM - On 2nd January 1999, peacefully in his 84th year after a short illness, David Lionel Adam TD, devoted husband of the late Marjorie Diana Adam, much loved father of Nigel and James and grandfather of Thomas and Diana. Funeral Service at Ruckinge Parish Church on Monday 11th January at 12.30pm. Donations if desired payable to Christ's Hospital School c/o Romney Marsh Funeral Service, George Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8BS.

ADDIS - Jocelyn Faith (née Wedgwood) died at home on 1st January 1999. A funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire, on Tuesday 12th January at 1.00 pm. Only family flowers please.

ALEXANDER - Marjorie Eugene A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., F.T.C.L pianist, organist and teacher, was born in Wellington New Zealand on 27th June 1913, died in Bracknell Berkshire on January 1st 1999. Funeral at Woking Crematorium on Monday 11th January at 9.30am. No flowers, no fuss. She leaves a husband and his cat. Donations however small to The Cats Protection League, 17 Kings Road Horsham RH13 5PN.

ARGYLE - His Honor Micheal Victor MC QC MA Cantab former Old Bailey Judge died peacefully at home January 4th. Much loved husband of the late Ann, darling father of Gabrielle, Marie and Caroline and grandfather of Kathleen, Alice, Maximillian and Edward. Funeral to be held Tuesday 12th January 11.45am St. Ediths Church, Tamworth, Staffs. All enquiries and flowers to Evans and Sons Funeral Directors, 20 Albert Road, Tamworth. Telephone: 01827 56505.

DEATHS

BERRY - Brian Roy, died peacefully at home on January 1st. Dearly loved husband of Monique and much loved father of Jane and Richard, father-in-law of Elaine and Andrew and grandfather of Timothy and Andrew. Funeral Service to be held on Monday January 11th at 2pm at St Mary's, Little Wakering, Essex. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Woodgreen Animal Shelter, c/o Wiggins Funeral Director, 84 High Street, Great Wakering, Essex. Tel 01702 219264.

BOATFIELD - Margaret Rosamond (née Wilcockson), beloved widow of Gerald and loving mother of Christine and Tony, died on 3rd January aged 98 at Sutton Manor Nursing Home. Funeral at Salisbury Crematorium at 3pm on Monday 11th January. No flowers. Donations to Womens British Legion, c/o Mrs Hooper, Wellow, Hampshire.

BRITLAND - On December 31st 1998, peacefully at home William Stanley, beloved husband of Jean, father of Andrew and Samantha, grandfather of Cassandra, James and Tobias. Funeral service will take place on Wednesday January 13th at Christ Church, Coombe Road, New Malden, followed by private cremation. Flowers and enquiries to Frederick W. Payne, 182 High Street New Malden, Surrey KT3 4ES. Tel:0181 942 1978.

BULBROOK - Morag Harvey St. Clair, quietly at home, on 2nd January 1999.

BURROW - Hugh le Fleming, late of Bath. Died 25th December 1998 in Woodbridge, Suffolk. Funeral private, no flowers by request.

CARDEN - Anne formerly of Wistaria Cottage, Portchester much loved wife of Bill, mother of John, Elizabeth, Peter, and Clare and gran to Patrick, Alastair, Vicky, Richard, Beany, Lily, Emily and Annie. Died peacefully at Brendon Nursing Home Winchester on 2nd January after a long illness. Family cremation. Thanksgiving Service in her memory at St. Lawrence Church, Winchester near the Butter Cross in High Street on Saturday 16th January at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only. Retiring collection for research funded through Stroke Association.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

CARLING - On December 29th at Benslow Nursing Home, Katharine Joan Carling aged 90 years of Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Wife of the late Gerard Carling and dear mother of the late Richard, and of Nigel, Charles, Janet and Lydia. Service at Harwood Park Crematorium, Watton Road, Stevenage on Thursday, January 14th at 11.45 am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for The Missions to Seamen, may be sent c/o Chenery Funeral Services, 44 Bedford Road, Hitchin SG5 2TY (tel: 01462-434375).

CARMICHAEL - Betty, on 31st December 1998, aged 83. Beloved wife of the late Lt. Col. H. R. Carmichael M.C. and of the late Lt. Col. P.A.E. Dumas. Mother of Sarah, Hugh and Mark, loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving for family and friends at St. Saviours Church, Brockenhurst, on Thursday 14th January at 2.30pm. No flowers, by her request, but donations if desired, to the Chief Executive, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, 10 Beaumont Street, London W1N 2AA.

CASSON - Doctor Arthur Harry of Oxford (late of Chipping Sodbury), aged 89. Passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday 1st January 1999. "He's safe, because He's trusting in Jesus". After a private cremation on Monday 11th January there will be a Thanksgiving Service at St. Ebbes Church, Oxford at 3.00pm. Donations to Sir Michael Sobell House c/o Reeves & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4TE.

CUSHMAN - Jane (née Clapperton) in New York, on 30th December, of cancer. Wife of the late John, mother of Thomas, sister of Amanda, daughter of the late Margery and Douglas (Jock). The funeral has already taken place. Enquiries: 0171 381 2425.

DUMAS - See Carmichael

DURLACHER - Timothy Esmond died on 4th January 1999 in Spain. Dearly loved by Beatriz, daughter Susan, and grandchildren Sophie, Jessica and James.

DYER - Lavinia Ann of Emberton, died peacefully at Kelmarsh Nursing Home on January 1st. Wife of the late Rex and much loved mother of Martin and Caroline. Private Cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving to be held at All Saints' Church, Emberton on Wednesday 24th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Alzheimer's Research Trust, GJ Livanos House, Granhams Road, Cambridge CB2 5LQ.

EDLIN - Beryl Hazlewood. Died peacefully at a nursing home in Banstead on 30th December. Funeral Service on Thursday 14th January at 2.00pm in All Saints' Church, Banstead. No flowers, please. Any donations to The British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Crown Lane, Streatham, SW16 3JB.

EVERETT - (née Jessop) Frances Elizabeth much loved and devoted wife of Douglas for 56 years. Mother of Susanna and Catharine, Frannie to Richard and Edward, sister-in-law of Sheilah and Pamela. Died aged 79 peacefully on 3rd January after a long illness. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Stoke Bishop Monday 11th January at 2.45 followed by cremation at Canford Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations to BRACE Alzheimers Research, Blackberry Hill Hospital, Bristol BS16 2EW.

EVERS - Pamela (née Bush) aged 77 years. Peacefully at home on December 24th 1998. Beloved wife of John and mother of Diana and Carol and grandmother. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Kemp Town Brighton, at 11.00am on Wednesday 13th January 1999, followed by burial at Woodland Burial Ground Brighton. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Brighton and Hove branch of the Alzheimer's Society c/o Teresa Baker Caring Lady Funeral Director, 155 Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 3LG. Tel: 01273 626326.

FIRTH - Née Spickernell. On January 2nd 1999, peacefully at home in Stalbridge, Dorset, Heather, aged 73 years, formerly of Stourton Caundle. A much loved wife of Ken and sister of John. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Stourton Caundle on Monday January 11th at 2.30pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for the British Lung Foundation c/o Peter Jackson Funeral Services, Mons, High Street, Henstridge, Somerset BA8 0RB. Tel: 01963 362570.

FOWLER - Ursula Margaret (née Godwin) wife of Bernard, mother to Simon and Nicola and loving grandmum to Bert, Laura, Jack and Elliot on January 4th. After a long illness. Funeral at St. Andrew's Church Ampthill at 2pm on Thursday 14th January followed by private cremation. No flowers please but donations would be welcome to Addenbrookes Kidney Patients Association through A. L & G. Abbott (Funeral Directors) 150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8BH.

FRIEND - Peg (Moon to her family) of Chalfont St. Peter, Buckinghamshire, died very peacefully on 3rd January. Widow of Don Friend and much loved mother of Martin, Jeremy and Rod. Family flowers only and donations to Amnesty International.

GOALEN - Gerard, Architect. Peacefully on 2nd January 1999. Widower of Maria de Lourdes, beloved father of Martin and Paul, grandfather to Alexander, Timothy, Sarah and Helen. Requiem Mass, Friday 8th January, 1.00pm at the Church of Our Lady, London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

GRAHAM - Eileen Audrey (née Williams), aged 91 years, died peacefully on December 31st 1998. Mother of Jeannette Morgan-Davies, Helen Spice and Yvonne Russell. Enquiries to A. B. Walker & Son Ltd. Tel. 0118 9573650.

HANDFORD - Michael Robert Mounteney, at home after a tragic accident. Cremation Tuesday 12th January at 4.15pm, Weeley Crematorium, Colchester Road, Weeley, Essex. Please no flowers, but any donations for RNLI c/o Ellison & Co, Solicitors, Kingsway, Dovercourt, Essex CO12 3JU.

HARRISON - Tragically on December 31st in Switzerland, John Francis of Baslow. We give thanks for his 63 years of life and all that he contributed to ours. Loved and loving husband of Catherine and dear father of James, Jonathan, Sally-Ann, Sara and Sally. Funeral service for family only, followed by private burial at home. A Memorial Service to celebrate his full and happy life will be held at All Saints' Church, Ecclesall on Thursday March 4th at 11.00am. Donations in John's memory, payable to St. Luke's Hospice, may be sent to John Heath and Sons, Funeral Directors, 4-16 Earsham Street, Sheffield S4 7LS.

HEINEMANN - Campbell died peacefully on 1st January after a short illness. Thanksgiving Service at St. Simon Zelotes, Milner Street, Chelsea London SW3 on Monday 11th January at 12.30pm after a private cremation. No flowers please but donations to the MS Society, c/o JH Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row London SW1P 1JU.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HORSFALL TURNER - Eileen (née Jenkins). On New Years day at the home of her family in Greenwich, peacefully in her sleep after a long illness. Beloved wife of the late Harold Horsfall Turner C.B.E. and much loved mother, of Richard and Jonathan, grandmother and great-grandmother. Thanksgiving and cremation at Mortlake Crematorium at 3.30 pm on Friday 15th January, 1999. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Arthritis Research Campaign c/o Mrs R Goodden "Ferryside", Riverside, Twickenham, TW1 3DN.

HURST - Barbara Jessie, daughter of the late Sir Cecil Hurst GCMG, KCB, and the late Lady Hurst, peacefully on 4th January 1999 at Westlake House, Horsham, aged 92. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Rusper at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 12th January. Family flowers only, donations if wished to the Samaritans c/o Freeman Bros, 9 North Parade, Horsham RH12 2BP (01403 254590).

HURT - On 4th January 1999, at Derby City Hospital, Cynthia, devoted wife of the late Michael of Casterne Hall. Funeral Service at Ilam Church near Ashbourne, Tuesday 12th January at 2pm. Flowers, or donations to the Blue Cross Shelter for Animals c/o W. Jones & Son (Funeral Directors), Brailsford, Derby DE6 3DA.

HUTCHISON - On January 4th, peacefully at the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, Dice. Widow of David. Much loved by all who knew her. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Iden, Nr Rye on Tuesday January 19th 1999 at 11.30 am. followed by cremation. Flowers or donations, if preferred, payable to The Cinnamon Trust (Animal Trust) c/o J Perigoe & Son, The Duke, Beckley, E. Sussex - tel 01797 260316.

INGHAM - Christopher (Kit), John on December 30th 1998 died suddenly and peacefully at home. Loving husband to Birgit, father to Kerstin and Nicholas and beloved grandfather to Tristan and Saskia. A Service of Rememberance and Thanksgiving is to be held at the parish church of St Mary-without-the-Walls, Handbridge, Chester at 2.30 pm Tuesday 12th January. No flowers, donations to RNLI. All enquiries to Dutton and Hallmark Funeral Services, 80 Faulkner Street, Hoole, Chester CH2 3BQ. Tel 01244 310968.

KENNARD - Anthony Spencer Lt Cdr DSC Royal Navy on 4th January. Loved husband of Lorna, father of Martin and Penelope. Thanksgiving Service at 2.30 pm Tuesday 12th January at St Thomas, Cothelstone, Bishops Lydeard.

KERR - Andrew Wallace, ex Bank of England, died peacefully at home on 13th December, 1998. There will be a Wake to celebrate his life and achievements at The Assembly Rooms, Gates Green Road, Coney Hall, West Wickham, Kent on Saturday 9th January 4pm to 8pm. Donations to St Christophers Hospice via family.

KNIBB - Trevor died peacefully at home, aged 78, on the 1st January 1999 after a brief illness. Will be sadly missed by his loving wife Quita and his children Alastair, Richard and Deborah, and their families, Anna, Louisa and Duncan and grandchildren Robyn, Freya, Charlie and Alexander. Thanksgiving Service to be held at St. Michael's Church, Chenies on the 15th January at 3.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Bank Farm Riding for Disabled. Any enquiries to H.C. Grimstead. Tel: 01753 891200.

LEWIN - Deborah (Debby) on December 31st, aged 68, suddenly in hospital, devoted wife of the late Dick Lewin, very much loved mother of Richard and Sarah and mother-in-law of Ana, dear Grandma Debby to Katie and Caroline and beloved sister of Liz. Funeral on Friday, January 8th, at St. Margaret's Church, Corsley, Wilts, at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, please, but donations to the National Osteoporosis Society and International Glaucoma Association may be sent to W. Adlam & Son, 68 Locks Hill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1NH (01373 452100).

LOVE - Colonel Stephen, MBE. Suddenly on January 1st beloved husband of Robin, much loved father of Jeremy, Jonathan and Tim and loving grandfather of five. Small family funeral at Blackawton January 16th; Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Brixham, February 6th 2.00 pm. All enquiries and any donations (if desired) for Army Benevolent Fund to R. C. Pillar & Sons, Dartmouth 01803 832121.

MAITLAND - On December 27th peacefully at Beech Court Nursing Home, Eynsham aged 97. Mary Maitland of Summertown, Oxford wife first of the late John Walter Rowlands and secondly of the late Jack Edward Maitland. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 13th January at the church of St Michaels and All Angels Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford. Please no flowers. Donations if desired to the Salvation Army 101, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP.

MANNERS - Charles John Robert, 10th Duke of Rutland CBE, DL, died January 2nd 1999 at Belvoir Castle. The funeral will be at St. Mary the Virgin, Bottesford on Thursday, 21st January at 11.00am. Tickets strictly by application to the Estate Office (MEH), Belvoir Castle, Grantham, Lincs, NG32 1PD. No flowers. Donations to the "Duke of Rutland Charities A/C" for distribution by the family. There will be a Memorial Service in London, to be announced later.

MARTIN - William Harry MSc, F.Inst.P. 63 years, at home on 31st December after a sudden illness.

McVITTIE - Joyce. Beloved mother of Anna and widow of Carl. Peacefully on January 1st 1999, aged 88, after a long illness patiently borne. Funeral Service at Aldeburgh Parish Church on Monday January 11th at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired made payable to N.S.P.C.C. c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP1 1DJ.

MEADLEY - Laurence Wyndham, on January 4th aged 93. Dearly loved husband of Kitty, father of Adrian, Janice Guy and Richard and a much loved grandfather. Funeral at 4.15pm on Tuesday 12th January at St. Andrew's Church, Cobham. Family flowers only please, but donations can be made to Sightsavers International c/o James and Thomas Ltd, Mill Road, Cobham, KT11 3AL.

MEECH - Clarice Joan, died peacefully January 3rd 1999, aged 88. Widow of Richard Barnard, very dear and much loved mother of Pamela, Rosalind and the late Richard. Adored grandmother of Charles, Juliette, Richard, Claire, Max, Johanna, James, Claudia, Sarah and Richard. Fond great-grandmother of Cameron, William, Emily, Alexander, Lucy, Harry and George. Funeral Service at St. Laurence Church, Upwey on Saturday January 9th at 2.00pm. Flowers and enquiries to Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester. Tel:(01305) 262338.

NIXON - peacefully after a long illness on 31st December 1998 aged 73 years Ronald (Ronnie) of Gosforth. Beloved brother of Norman and Isa, much loved uncle and great uncle of all the family. Will be sadly missed. Would friends please meet at Heddon Cemetery for service and interment at 12 noon Friday 7th January 1999. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Research, Marie Curie Drive, Elswick, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

OFFORD - Colonel Eric RTR at home on January 1st, 1999, aged 89 years. Funeral Service in the Church of St. Lawrence, Affpuddle on Thursday January 7th, noon. Flowers or donations to RTR Benevolent Fund, may be sent to Albert Marsh (Funeral Directors) Ltd., St. Michaels Road, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4QU. Tel: 01929 552107.

PARKER - On 3rd January suddenly at Saltram, Brigadier The Hon. Robin Parker, late The Royal Greenjackets, aged 73. Funeral at the Parish Church, Plympton, St. Mary on Monday 11th January at 2.45pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Royal Greenjacket Charitable Fund, Regimental Headquarters, Peninsular Barracks, Winchester SO23 8TS.

PASINT MAGYAR - On 23rd December 1998, in London, Esther, wife of the late Dr Steven Magyar and mother of David and Peter, aged 64 years. Funeral service at Farkasréti Cemetery, Budapest on 15th January 1999 at 10.30am. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG.

PORTMAN - Nancy, Viscountess Portman, aged 87. Peacefully on 31st December 1998 after a long painful illness courageously borne. Wife of the late Gerald Berkeley Portman, 8th Viscount, fourth daughter of the late Captain P.H. Franklin R.N. and Mrs Franklin, beloved sister of the late May, Gladys and Thora (Clementi) and of Rose who survives her. Private cremation. Memorial Service at Portman Chapel, Bryanston, Blandford on Friday 15th January at 11.30 am. Further enquiries to Deric-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth. Tel: 01202 309609

PULMAN - John, former World Snooker Champion, of Northampton, died suddenly on December 22nd. Cremation at The Counties Crematorium, Towcester Road, Milton Malsor, Northampton at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 12th. Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to Pedmore Sporting Club Trust Fund, c/o WPBSA, 27 Oakfield Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2AT.

SANDBERG - Diana Margaret Ina (née Hirst) peacefully on New Years day at the Quinta Nursing Home, Bentley in Hampshire. Mother of Alexander and Patrick and beloved grandmother. Funeral Service on Friday, January 8th at th Holy Rood Church in Holybourne, Alton at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, but donations to any cancer charity would be appreciated.

هكذا من الإصل

OBITUARIES

ROLF LIEBERMANN

Rolf Liebermann, opera house director and composer, died in Paris on January 2 aged 88. He was born in Zurich on September 14, 1910.

A small piece of transparent plastic sat on Rolf Liebermann's desk when he was director of the Paris Opéra in the 1970s. One side had the announcement BOSS HEUREUX and the other BOSS PAS HEUREUX: boss happy, boss grumpy. Liebermann had been given the object as a joke but he kept it as a management tool, although that was scarcely necessary. He exuded authority, with his imposing frame, wide shoulders and patrician brow.

He had been brought in by the French Government in 1973 to save the Opéra, which was in as parlous a state as Covent Garden is now. Standards had fallen and much public derision was hurled at it. It had become a national and governmental embarrassment. If Liebermann had failed in his task, then it might have closed for ever.

He succeeded. Under him it became an international house once more. The glamour returned and so did contemporary opera. Perhaps the single most important event during Liebermann's seven-year reign there was the first performance of the three-act version of Alban Berg's *Lulu*, completed by Friedrich Cerha, conducted by Pierre Boulez and directed by Patrice Chéreau in 1979. The whole of musical Europe attended, together with a number of leading politicians who felt themselves up to handling Berg. The Cerha *Lulu* was soon to become standard the world over.

That night summed up many of Liebermann's personal crusades. For a great deal of his life he had championed the Viennese school, the city where he had learnt much of his music. And his doors were always open to the new and experimental. He helped to create the stars of the future, Placido Domingo being a major beneficiary, but he tried in Paris to ensure that his audience was not fossilised in the past.

Rolf Liebermann came, on his father's side, from a Jewish family of bankers. They emigrated from Berlin at the end of the last century to Switzerland, where his father became a prominent lawyer. Rolf was intended for the same profession, but soon gave it up in preference to music. The family had plenty of inclination in that direction and Einstein was among those who came to the house to join in chamber music evenings. The young Liebermann studied composition in Switzerland under Wladimir Vogel, while playing in a jazz band. He moved to Vienna in the mid-1930s with ambitions to become a conductor. There he worked with Hermann Scherchen and became the German maestro's private secretary.

He was thrust straight away into the centre of the Viennese School, and his lifelong love for Berg and Schoenberg began. But the *Anschluss* meant that Liebermann, with his Jewish parentage, had to return swiftly to his native Switzerland. There he decided to give up a potential career as a conductor and turned to composition instead. At this time he met another Jewish refugee, Georg Solti, and a friendship was formed that lasted until Solti's death in 1997.

After the end of the war Liebermann's career began to take its final shape, which was a split between composer and musical administrator. He took charge of music for the Swiss-German radio station in Zurich and became manager of the Beromünster Radio Orchestra. During this period he wrote a number of operas, including *Penelope* (performed at Salzburg in 1954) and *The School for Wives*, which after a number of revisions became another Salzburg opera in 1957.

The mid-1950s also brought the piece by which he will probably be most remembered, *Concerto for Jazz Band and Orchestra*, a typical Liebermann fusion of two very different groups of instruments and a reflection of his double taste for classical music and the avant-garde. There was, too, some cacophony in *Concert des échanges*, commissioned by the city of Lausanne for its exhibition in 1964. Liebermann, inspired by the noises produced by the clattering typewriters and telexes in a busy offfice, scored it for 54 "industrial machines". Fortunately they did not appear on the concert platform but were prerecorded.



Rolf Liebermann (left) with Igor Stravinsky in Hamburg, 1963

Meanwhile his career as an administrator had taken off. In 1957 he went to the North German Radio as musical director and from there to the Hamburg State Opera, replacing Günther Rennert. He turned that distinctly staid house into a Mecca for devotees of contemporary opera. During his time there, from 1959 to 1972, he commissioned two dozen new works, which included Hans Werner Henze's *Der Prinz von Homburg* and Penderecki's *The Devils of Loudun*. He championed other 20th-century composers, such as Igor Stravinsky and Ernst Krenek, and he encouraged a new generation of singers, bringing to Hamburg early in their careers such men as Placido Domingo, Kurt Moll and Hans Sotin.

Liebermann's success in Hamburg made him a natural choice to haul the Paris Opéra out of the quagmire. He turned to his old friend from the war years, Georg Solti, for help. Solti came to conduct a glittery *Marriage of Figaro*, directed by Giorgio Strehler. Placido Domingo arrived to sing Manrico in *Il trovatore* which amazingly had never previously been performed at the Palais Garnier. The international touch had returned to a house which had spent too much time contemplating its own navel.

Lulu apart, Liebermann's greatest Paris coup was to persuade Olivier Messiaen, no lover of opera houses, to write *Saint François d'Assise* for the Palais Garnier. He was also a considerable influence on the career of the director Patrice Chéreau.

When he retired from the Paris Opéra in 1980 at the age of 70 Liebermann felt free to take up composition again (though he was to return to Hamburg for three more seasons as general manager in 1985). His responsibilities as an opera house director had given him no time for this part of his life, and in any case he was always scrupulous about not using his administrative power to promote his own work.

He wrote the opera *La Forêt*, based on the Ostrovsky play, for Geneva, where it was premiered in 1987. This was commissioned by the director of the Geneva Opera, Hugues Gall, who had worked closely with him during his seven years in Paris. Gall was a pupil who learnt much from Liebermann and it was no surprise that he was called from Geneva to Paris three years ago to solve yet another crisis at the Opéra. He, too, has succeeded, and the Bastille will present Liebermann's final stage work, based on the Medea story, in 2002.

Rolf Liebermann was twice married. He is survived by his second wife, Hélène Vida, a television journalist whom he met when she interviewed him, and by the son of his first marriage.

HIS HONOUR MICHAEL ARGYLE

His Honour Major Michael Argyle, QC, MC, a circuit judge from 1970 to 1988, died on January 4 aged 83. He was born on August 31, 1915.

FOR ALL the colourful controversy that frequently surrounded him, Michael Argyle was at heart a plain man's judge. He said what he thought, even if it did sometimes attract accusations of prejudice and once earned him a reprimand from the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Havers. Judges are frequently criticised for being remote from everyday life. Michael Argyle was all too often heavily involved in it, remembered by staff at the Central Criminal Court for his daily patronage of the bookmaker's shop outside the court and for his insistence on always having a television set in his robing room in order to keep abreast of sports, especially those on which money was riding. He owned and bred racehorses, was a chess and amateur boxing fan and a breeder of whippets. However, he never learnt one crucial lesson of the ring and was always ready to lead with his chin.

He was a gift to newspapers which loved to reprint the remarks for which he became famous. He freed one woman, saying: "You have caught me on a good day because I became a grandfather this morning." He told a black defendant accused of assault: "Get out and go back to Jamaica." A sex attacker was told: "You come from Derby, which is my part of the country. Now off you go. And don't come before my court again." Any real consistency would be difficult to find in his sentencing, except that he did what was within his power to deter crime. He observed in 1987: "Quite simply law and order do not exist in this country at present."

Educated at Shardlow Hall, Derbyshire, Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge, he served in the Second World War in India, the Middle East and Italy with the 7th Queen's Own Hussars. He won an immediate Military Cross for organising a tank crossing of the Po. He had been called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, in 1938, becoming a bencher in 1967 and treasurer in 1984. He resumed his practice in 1947 on the Midland Circuit. He first came to public attention when he defended Ronald Biggs in the Great Train Robbery trial, but in a spontaneous gesture of generosity he later sent a cheque to the Driver Jack Mills appeal fund. He was later still to put up a personal reward of £100 for information leading to the arrest of muggers who attacked a woman usher at the Central Criminal Court.

Argyle became Recorder of Northampton from 1962 to 1965 and then of Birmingham from 1965 to 1970. He was never afraid to admit that he needed more knowledge and went to night school, run by Loughborough University, to learn more about penology. Later he attended a 15-shilling course on drug addiction. He was all for spreading knowledge around and launched an experiment in citizenship with teenagers sitting beside him, though they took no part in cases. He was ahead of his time in wanting a proper place for victims in the criminal justice system, calling in 1965 for reports on them before passing sentence.

Some of his views were what one would expect from a former Conservative candidate, who stood unsuccessfully in Belper in 1950 and in Loughborough in 1955. He put into practice his belief that tougher sentencing could deter crime. As a result of his offensive in Birmingham against telephone vandals, jailing them for up to three years, he claimed a virtual cessation of offences involving kiosks and the restoration of effectively a 100 per cent call-box service in the city. He then threatened life imprisonment for burglars. The Court of Criminal Appeal was said to have called for a transcript of his remarks. However, in the next fortnight reported crime in Birmingham was stated to have fallen by 40 per cent.

Appointed an occasional judge of the Central Criminal Court in 1970, he relinquished his recordership of Birmingham, and found himself in the headlines over the *Oz* trial. He imposed prison sentences, subsequently quashed, on the three editors of the magazine in 1971. Police guarded his home after an anonymous bomb threat. The *New Law Journal* said the sentences on the three editors were "indefensibly severe".

Yet it was impossible to pigeonhole him: he was too maverick to be regarded as a safe member of the Establishment. He won a reputation for trying to find work for unemployed defendants and earned himself the title of "the job-hunters' judge".

He tangled with the Establishment once too often, though, when he made a speech to law students in Nottingham which he evidently thought would not be reported. He said judges should be empowered to impose death sentences in cases carrying penalties of more than 15 years, and suggested that there were more than five million illegal immigrants in Britain. Lord Havers, the Lord Chancellor, severely reprimanded him in July 1987 and in October Argyle announced that he would retire the following July.

He was proud of his membership of the Carlton, Cavalry and Guards, and Kennel Clubs. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards from 1984 to 1985.

His wife, Ann, predeceased him; he is survived by their three daughters.

IRON EYES CODY

Iron Eyes Cody, Native American actor, *died on January 4 in* Los Angeles aged about 94. He was born in Oklahoma, probably in 1904.

IN THE credits of his early Hollywood films, Iron Eyes Cody was simply billed as "Indian" or "Indian Chief", denied the satisfaction of seeing his Native American name on screen. This was evidence of the fledgeling industry's disregard for native peoples, which Cody spent a lifetime seeking to change.

As an actor, technical adviser on Indian culture and an environmental activist, Cody was the first Native American to use the big and small screens to educate his audiences about Indian history and folklore.

The son of Thomas Long Plume, a Cherokee Indian, and Frances Salpet, a Cree Indian, Cody came to performing as a child. His father toured in Wild West shows and circuses, putting his son with him in his act on many occasions.

Young Cody's attentions first turned to Hollywood when the Lasky players arrived in Texas for filming and used his father's barn to shoot some scenes for a movie. He befriended the production team, who told him if he ever came to Hollywood they would be happy to use him as a consultant.

His first film appearance was as an extra in 1919, in the silent movie *Back to God's Country*. It was a role that he was to follow up with more than a hundred appearances in Westerns, including many which featured John Wayne, Gary Cooper and Errol Flynn.



Cody in 1982: he created a fine private Indian collection

Cody remained in Los Angeles, and built a successful career playing Indian characters, including starring roles in *Sitting Bull* (1954), *The Great Sioux Massacre* (1965) and *A Man called Horse* (1970).

But to many Americans he was best known for a television commercial he shot in 1970 for the "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. In it, Cody was shown shedding a tear, later revealed to be glycerine, while staring out at an environment ruined by pollution. (Cody admitted later that he had originally resisted doing the commercial because he maintained that Indians don't cry.)

During the 1950s, in addition to his acting roles, Cody began working as a technical adviser on Indian matters to both television and film directors. He also supplemented his film work with television guest appearances, including stints on *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke* and *Rawhide*.

Outside the film industry Cody lectured extensively on Indian culture and created the Moosehead Museum in the basement of his home. This is now considered to be one of the best private Indian collections anywhere in the United States.

Cody met with controversy only once, at the end of his life. In 1996 the *New Orleans Times Picayune* questioned the authenticity of his Native American origins. The paper said that, after interviewing his half-sister and examining baptismal records, it believed that he might be of Italian descent. Cody vigorously denied this slur.

His wife, Bertha Parker Cody, died in 1978. He is survived by one son.

ON THIS DAY

January 6, 1922

Immediate and persistent efforts were made by Michael Collins and the IRA Chief to secure A. B. Kay's release and he was freed in 24 hours, having been taken by armed men to Cork. The cause of the kidnapping was an article written by Kay.

KIDNAPPING OF THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT

From Our Special Correspondent

DUBLIN, Jan 5.

I have to inform you that my colleague, Mr A.B. Kay, who has been assisting me as Special Correspondent of *The Times* in Ireland, was kidnapped yesterday in Dublin by armed men and taken in a motor-car to a destination then unknown . . .

The outrage seems to have been the work of irresponsible persons opposed to the Treaty, and the heads of the IRA in the country have taken every step within their power during the last 24 hours to find Mr Kay and to bring about his immediate and unconditional release. Wherever responsibility lies, the incident has aroused the greatest indignation among the large body of journalists at present in Dublin and among at least a large section of members of Dail Eireann.

I was myself a witness, under duress, of Mr Kay's removal. Pressure of work in describing the proceedings of Dail Eireann gives journalists little leisure in which to snatch a meal during the luncheon adjournment, and a number of the Press correspondents have on various occasions visited a shop in Upper Leeson-street, within a hundred yards of University College, to get what refreshment they could.

Yesterday afternoon six of us, five representing London daily newspapers and one a Scottish paper, went to this shop shortly after half-past 2. As there were people in the shop we were asked to go into another room. A few minutes later we heard some person outside try one of the doors and apparently turn the key in the lock. Three men then entered through the main door. They mixed with us, and one of the party suddenly produced a repeating pistol of large calibre, and after asking if we know what this was for, said:-"Is Mr Kay here?"

The other two men drew weapons of the same pattern and, noticing that one of the correspondents had a hand in his pocket, sharply ordered him to remove it.

Mr Kay said: "I am Kay," and the man who appeared to be the leader of the raiders covered him with his gun, while the other men covered the remainder of the party. Little time was wasted.

The leader, speaking swiftly and intensely to Mr Kay, said: "There is a car outside and you understand you have to come into it. If you don't, by Christ, we will riddle you." As he spoke he shook his pistol in Mr Kay's face. The rest of us were warned at the same time that if one tried to give the alarm we should be dealt with.

Mr Kay said that he was prepared to obey the orders given him, and was then told that if he had any "copy" for his newspaper he could give it to the other correspondent. He handed over some manuscript and was then taken from the room. Before going out the leader said that no harm would come to Mr Kay and that he would probably be back last night . . .

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

SCOTCHMER - Ella died peacefully in hospital on 31st December 1998. Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium at 2.30pm on Thursday, 14th January 1999.

STEELE-SMITH - On December 29th in hospital aged 79 years Hugh Frederick of Ilkley. Dearly loved husband of the late Margaret. The funeral service will take place at the Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert, Bolton Abbey on Thursday January 14th at 11.30 am, followed by cremation at Skipton Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to Ardenlea Marie Curie Centre, Queens Drive, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

STEWART - Alison M C (Sal) née Wilson of Carlton, Suffolk. Peacefully on December 30th 1998 aged 88 years. Widow of Brig. G.W.F. Stewart O.B.E. Much loved mother of Hugh (dec'd), Jean and Robert, grandmother of Mark, Susie, Sarah and Katy. Funeral Service at Kelsale Church on Thursday 14th January at 2.00 pm. No flowers but donations if desired made payable to A.R.C. c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham IP17 1DJ.

STIRLING - Hilda Irene aged 84. Darling mother of Hilary and Hugh and beloved grandma of Charlotte, Alexis and Francis. Died peacefully on 1st January 1999 in Greenwich after a short illness. Service on Thursday 14th January 1999 at 2.15pm at Eltham Crematorium, Crown Woods Way, Eltham, London SE9. No flowers but, if desired, donations to King George's Fund for Sailors, 8, Hatherley Street, London SW1P 2YY.

STUTTAFORD, - Sir William Royden CBE on 2nd January at home after an illness borne with great courage and dignity. Dearly loved husband of d'Esterre, father of Clare, William, Dominic and Melanie, stepfather of Angus and Katrina and much loved grandfather. Private funeral, family flowers only. A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, 4th February at 12.00 noon at St. Margaret's Church Lothbury, London EC2. Donations, if desired to Prostate Research Campaign U.K., c/o J.K. May, Blackwater House Barfield Road West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8JS.

STYLIANOU - Judith, wife of Andreas, mother of Christopher and daughter of Lt. General Sir Charles and Lady Dobell on 31st December at Pathos, Cyprus. Funeral at Anglican Church, Pathos on 7th January at 2.30 pm.

SYMONDS - Joan Margaret (née Beete), died peacefully on New Year's Eve, aged 93 years. Beloved widow of Tim. Much loved mother of Michael and Jeremy, mother-in-law and grandmother. Adored by her family, she will be greatly missed by them and all her friends for her wisdom, generosity and love of life. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service to be held in March at Amberley, West Sussex, on date to be advised. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (I.S.T.D.) benevolent Fund, c/o Powell Funeral Service, Watton Road, Ware, SG12 0AA.

TEMPLE-RICHARDS - Leofric Douglas, aged 76, peacefully of Leukaemia on 4th January. Our most beloved Leo, husband of Geraldine, father of Juliet and Charles, father-in-law of Ahmed and Virginia, grandfather of Omar, Ali, Cornelia, Juliana and Alec, close brother of Mervyn, Mary, and the late Peter. Family Funeral. Thanksgiving Service to be announced. A loving and happy man.

TURNER - F.J.W. (Jack) on January 3rd aged 89. Much loved by his son Alan and family. Funeral Service at St. Francis Church, Welwyn Garden City on 13th January at 2pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Plaisterers Company Charitable Trust c/o Coughlan Brothers, 1 Southfields, Welwyn Garden City AL7 4ST.

WALDO - On 19th December, 1998, peacefully at 3, Beatrice Place, Kensington, London, W8, Agnes Octavia Behrens Waldo, aged 90 years. Cremation is private, but any enquiries to Barnes & Sons 0181 743 4312.

WEAR - Rev. Michael John, on 31st December passed away peacefully, aged 89 at Nazareth House. Funeral Service at the London Oratory Knightsbridge, Tridentine Mass at 11 o'clock on Friday 8th January.

WHEELER - On January 3rd, peacefully in Halliwell Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, Harold Tidbury (Spider) aged 87. Dearly loved husband of Peggy, father of Susan and the late Justin, and grandfather. Funeral Service at the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery Chapel on Tuesday January 12th at 12.30pm. Donations to D.G.A.A./Homelife, may be sent c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1SD.

WINTERTON - Kaye died peacefully on New Year's Eve aged 89. Devoted wife of the late Ralph Winterton, much loved mother of Ann, Diana, William and Richard, grandmother of William, Edward, Pollyanna, Alicia and Luke, great-grandmother of Oscar.

WOODMANSEY - John suddenly on January 1st at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. Beloved husband and father of Patricia, Nicholas and Mark and dear brother of Pat. Funeral Friday January 8th at 12.45 pm. Emmanuel Church, Plymouth. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the RNLI.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

FORD - Group Captain W. R. (Ronnie) CBE. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London, Thursday 21st January 1999 at 12 noon. All welcome. Please confirm attendance by telephoning Adrian Ford 01372 738 218.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

DICKEN - Timothy, 6th January 1989. Loved and remembered.

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6 1999

NEWS

Saddam tries to lure jets into trap

American fighter aircraft attacked Iraqi planes in the air for the first time for six years yesterday as Saddam Hussein stepped up his campaign of provocation.

Six air-to-air missiles were fired at warplanes in the southern no-fly zone, which was being patrolled by F14 Navy jets and F15 fighters. Iraqi MiG and Mirage warplanes committed eight separate violations with between 13 and 15 planes.........Page 1

'Backdoor euthanasia' investigated

The deaths of at least 50 hospital patients around Britain are being investigated by police and health officials amid allegations of a creeping tide of backdoor euthanasia. Seven separate inquiries are looking into claims that doctors have withheld intravenous drips from dehydrated patients, often while they were under sedation, and left them to die from thirst.......Pages 1, 9

Yemen inquiry halted

Two Scotland Yard detectives were *told last night* to leave Aden on the first available flight after suddenly being refused permission to interview the leader of the gang that abducted 16 Western hostages......................Pages 1, 12

King of the slopes

Prince Harry gave a powerful boost to the latest craze of snowblading when he executed a small but perfect ski jump in front of the world's media, and landed on his feet unaided by poles........Page 1

Church takes to Che

The image of the communist revolutionary Che Guevara is being used by Britain's churches to represent *Jesus Christ in* an Easter advertising campaign. The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church have distanced themselves from the campaign.................................Page 3

Dome Minister's vow

Lord Falconer of Thoroton promised to "crack the whip" to get the Millennium Dome ready in time as he visited the site in southeast London for the first time..Page 4

Hospital condemned

Two senior doctors were cleared of the manslaughter of a 12-year-old cancer victim as an Old Bailey judge condemned Great Ormond *Street Hospital* for a "*chapter of* accidents and misunderstandings"..................................Page 5

Management macho

Women who succeed as managers do well not because of their feminine characteristics, such as sensitivity and warmth, but because of their ability to adopt an aggressive personality, according to new research................Page 6

Village green saved

Villagers have plucked a medieval green from the clutches of developers after their campaign raised the £350,000 needed to buy the land..............................Page 7

Lottery land plan

Lottery money is to be used instead of public cash to bankroll a fund aimed at helping communities buy Scottish estates from their lairds. The reforms will give the Government powers to evict absent landowners............Page 8

Euro 'high horse'

Britain should get off its "high horse" and join the euro, according to the German press, echoing the confidence of the Bonn Government that the Blair Administration will sign up for the single European currency sooner rather than later.........................Page 10

Sierra Leone funds

Britain announced that it was giving an extra £1 million to support the Nigerian-led forces fighting the rebels in Sierra Leone. The *money will pay for communica*tions and logistical back-up, but not for arms.....................Page 11

Polo is the mint with the soggy vole

In the Ayrshire seaside town of Largs, hit by severe flooding in this week's storms, one famous sweet will be forever known as the "mint with the vole". The new epithet is down to the ingenuity of a local petshop manager who used plastic Super Polo Mint containers to construct makeshift lifejackets for hamsters and guinea pigs trapped in his shop by floods.........................Page 3

TOM FLINT / AP



Tim Smith and Justin Shepherd, from Westerville, Ohio, relax in their igloo after America's cold snap forced the cancellation of school

BUSINESS

Vodafone merger: Vodafone, Brit*ain's largest mobile phone* company, has proposed a £60 billion-plus merger with its US rival....Page 21

Carpetbaggers: The Bradford & Bingley, under siege yesterday from carpetbagging investors, is drawing up battle plans to fight off attempts to take the building society public.............................Page 21

Travelex move: If *timing* is the secret to good comedy, then the management of Travelex, the operator of airport exchange bureaux, should have been rolling in the aisles...................................Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 78.80 points to 5958.2. The pound fell 0.44 cents to $1.6555 but rose 0.10p against the euro to 71.19p. The sterling index fell to 98.7....Page 24

SPORT

Football: The uneasy relationship between Dave Bassett and the Nottingham Forest plc directors ended in his acrimonious departure from the club.................................Page 40

Cricket: Stuart MacGill upstaged Shane Warne with match figures of 12 for 107 as Australia won the final Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground by 98 runs and the series by 3-1........................Page 40

Racing: Nigel Elwes, chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, criticised undisclosed "vendor purchases" at public yearling auctions...................................Page 37

Simon Barnes: The best bit of sport this year was Darren Gough's hattrick; the following 51 weeks will have to go some if they are to produce something as good....Page 34

ARTS

Cinema 1: One theme will dominate the big screen in the coming year — millennial angst. And the end of the world as we know it appears to be nigh.................Page 28

Cinema 2: After years of being consigned to dingy, cramped venues, arthouse filmgoers are suddenly being wooed by the big cinema players with soft reclining seats, sushi and champagne................Page 28

Swing time: Stand by your zoot suits, the big bands are back along with the jitterbug and the lindy hop — and the Forties sound has never seemed hotter.......................*Page 29*

French fanfare: It is the centenary of the birth of the French composer Francis Poulenc, and it's just as well that the British are celebrating it. The French aren't.........Page 30

FEATURES

Nothing doing: Few share the hopes of zero-point energy theorists that "fluctuations" in empty space could become a wondrous source of power....................................Page 14

Gene genius: The microarray is set to do for genetics what the microchip did for computing......Page 14

Steak silencer: In the third extract from his new book, Dr Robert C. Atkins says that a steak may silence cries for a doughnut...........Page 15

Joanna Coles: "This restaurant chain offers an extra delicacy: a flotilla of waitresses, famous for their generous breasts"..............Page 15

HOMES

Price guide: Should a housebuyer be able to find out what a seller originally paid for a property? It may soon be possible.................Page 33

INTERFACE

Countdown: You might think your business is safe, but the millennium bug could ruin it...**Supplement**

THE PAPERS

Running while her husband is still President would certainly be a break with tradition, and it also suggests a First Lady who is thinking of building a career that extends beyond the tarnished record of Mr Clinton. Her candidacy would represent a remarkable change in the dynamics of a marriage in which his career has come first.

The New York Times

RADIO & TV

Preview: Hale and Pace try their hand at sports commentary. *Jobs for the Boys* (BBC1, 10.15pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph on Rick Stein's culi*nary tour of Naples*.... **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

Creatures of euroland

Never in history has a multinational currency union succeeded. The EU has embarked on this unprecedentedly risky experiment with only a *shallow*, largely passive consensus. The consequences could be explosive. And it is because the politicians know this that, in their desperation for faster growth, they *have already set a collision* course against Central Bank.........Page 17

A Scottish landslide

Mr Dewar may hope to seduce a *Scottish electorate with his propos*als for land reform. But in playing to a nationalist grandstand, he risks pointlessly exacerbating divisions between land owners and tenants.......................................Page 17

Relative trust

Doctors are considered by some to be admitting "backdoor" euthanasia when they sedate their patients while, at the same time, depriving them of food and water. This indicates a lack of regulation which must be addressed..............Page 17

COLUMNS

GILES COREN

This is what the supplements should be giving us — not lists of those who are dead, but those who struggle on..............................Page 16

PERRY ANDERSON

This will be Berlin's year. A new German Government is moving to an old German capital. But what *sort of Government, and what sort* of city?.....................................Page 16

BRONWEN MADDOX

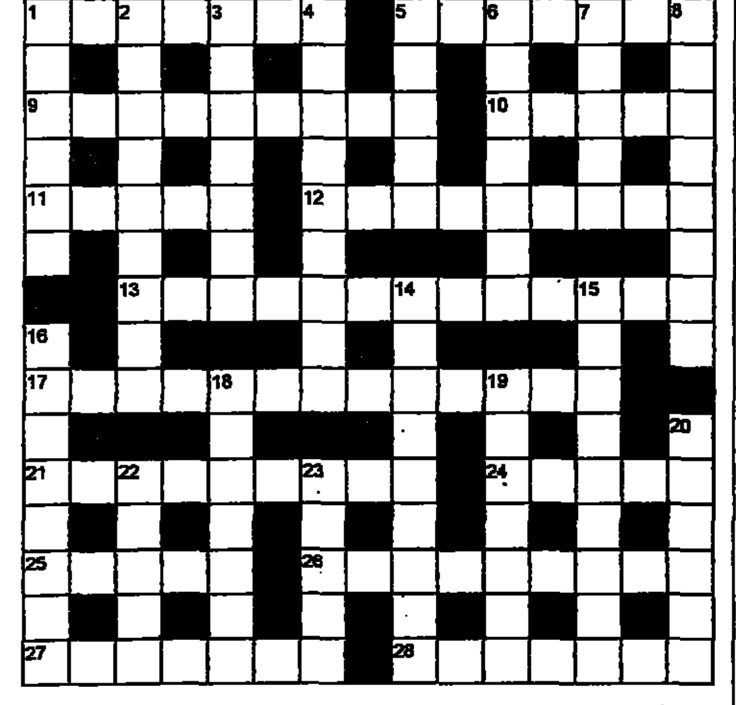
Can Bob Dole's wife, who threw herself into his 1986 bid for the White House, succeed where her husband had failed?............Page 16

OBITUARIES

Rolf Liebermann, director of the Paris Opera, 1973-80; **His Honour Michael Argyle**, former circuit judge; **Iron Eyes Cody**, Native American actor.......................Page 19

LETTERS

Drug czar's views on drugs; new year resolutions for the Commons; hopes for Cyprus; 1999 problem for Roman numerals; Dome....Page 17



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**

Recognise the shot? Anne Heche gets the Janet Leigh treatment in the remake of Hitchcock's *Psycho*

■ **BOOKS**

Three-page section includes reviews by Kate Muir, Jeanette Winterson, Sarah Dunant, Lisa Jardine and Roger Scruton

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,993

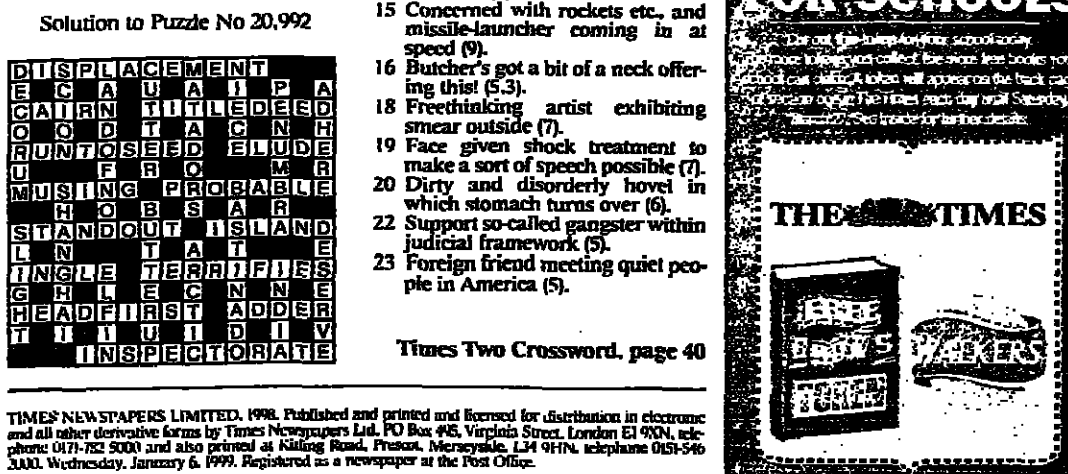
ACROSS

1 Haughty Brit beginning to prance round America (7).
5 Success one observed in admirable person hard to follow (7).
9 Jailbird accompanied by sturdy officer (9).
10 Crowds demanding peace vocally (5).
11 Rejected lass often hides depression (5).
12 Dismantle slate (4,5).
13 Constituents in seat repeatedly accepting PM's direction (4-5-4).
17 Club merry, rude, disorderly? Make vociferous complaint (3,4,6).
21 Sailor in Scottish town at roadside giving warning to passengers (3,6).
24 In the manner of a musketeer in part of India (5).
25 Enthusiastic monarch concealing senility (5).
26 I entangle bits at random with untidy result (9).
27 Temptress greeted on return ensnares gentleman's heart (7).
28 Indecisive with the last bit of wallpaper in the course of decorating? (7).

DOWN

1 Calm down old man, 100, with yen to go after one female (6).
2 Expertise shown, operating in brothers' house (9).
3 Unruly folk – quite the opposite of extended family after wedding? (7).
4 What's the matter with warship's position? (9).
5 Jerky movement making one shaky after a short time (5).
6 Naughty child a head means to charge with misconduct (7).
7 Host stands outside City, a place for pilgrims (5).
8 He, say, accepts one delay (8).
14 Old soldier showing where to put bandeau (9).
15 Concerned with rockets etc., and missile-launcher coming in at speed (9).
16 Butcher's got a bit of a neck offering this! (5,3).
18 Freethinking artist exhibiting smear outside (7).
19 Face given shock treatment to make a sort of speech possible (7).
20 Dirty and disorderly hovel in which stomach turns over (6).
22 Support so-called gangster within judicial framework (5).
23 Foreign friend meeting quiet people in America (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,992



DISPLACEMENT
CAIRN TITLEDEED
RUNTOSEED ELUDE
MUSING PROBABLE
STANDOUT ISLAND
INGLE TERRIFIES
HEADFIRST ADDER
INSPECTORATE

Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.05am | Sun sets: 4.07 pm

Moon sets: 9.30 pm | Moon rises: 10.33am

Last quarter Jan 9

London 4.07 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 3.48 pm to 8.44 am
Edinburgh 3.26 pm to 9.11 am
Manchester 3.36 pm to 8.53 am
Penzance 4.06 pm to 8.50 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** cloudy and wet. South-East England and East Anglia will start dry and mild with sunny spells. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some sunshine this afternoon. Most places dry tonight.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** sunny spells and mild at first, rain later. Fresh southwesterly wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Central S England, Midlands, Channel Islands:** mostly cloudy, soon giving rain. Fresher later. Fresh southwesterly wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **SW England, Wales, all Northern England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** wet and windy, then turning brighter and fresher with showers. Fresh west to southwesterly wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** cloudy, windy and wet. Fresh southwesterly wind, becoming northwesterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain, then brighter and colder with showers. Moderate to fresh north to northwesterly wind. Max 8C (46).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** windy with showers and longer spells of rain. Fresh westerly to northwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Irish Republic:** bright, dry weather driving out any rain. Generally moderate westerly wind. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **Outlook:** wet, windy and colder.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud, d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.06	5	41	r
Anglesey	-	0.36	11	52	r
Aspatria	-	1.31	11	52	r
Aviemore	-	0.22	5	41	r
Belfast	-	0.55	7	45	r
Birmingham	0.9	0.01	13	55	c
Bognor R	6.0	0.03	11	52	s
Bournemth	4.1	0.04	12	54	b
Bristol	-	0.01	14	57	c
Buxton	-	0.16	12	54	c
Cardiff	-	0.05	14	57	c
Clacton	4.2	-	10	50	b
Colwyn Bay	-	0.28	13	55	c
Cromer	0.4	0.01	13	55	c
Eastbourne	5.1	0.13	11	52	s
Edinburgh	-	0.32	5	41	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.98	4	39	r
Exmouth	1.0	0.13	13	55	b
Fishguard	-	0.20	12	54	r
Folkestone	6.1	0.04	12	54	s
Glasgow	-	0.31	5	41	r
Guernsey	6.5	0.03	14	57	s
Hastings	6.2	0.10	12	54	s
Hayling I.	-	0.08	11	52	b
Herne Bay	4.9	0.01	14	57	s
Hove	3.5	0.09	11	52	b
Hunstanton	-	0.01	13	55	b
Isle of Man	-	0.78	12	54	r
Isle of Wight	X	0.16	13	55	s
Jersey	7.3	0.01	12	54	s
Kinloss	-	0.01	6	43	r
Leeds	-	0.07	14	57	r
Lerwick	-	0.05	6	43	d
Leuchars	-	0.54	5	41	r
Littlehampton	4.9	0.20	13	55	s
London	2.1	0.01	14	57	b
Lowestoft	0.3	-	13	55	b
Manchester	-	0.13	13	55	r
Margate	1.9	0.01	13	55	b
Morecambe	-	0.98	13	55	r
Newcastle	-	0.25	13	55	r
Newquay	0.1	0.06	13	55	c
Norwich	2.0	0.08	14	57	b
Oxford	0.9	0.08	13	55	c
Penzance	X	0.14	13	55	du
Poole	0.5	0.04	14	57	c
Prestatyn	0.1	0.25	13	55	du
Ross on Wye	-	0.13	13	55	du
Saunton Sands	0.1	0.06	13	55	b
Scarborough	-	0.16	12	54	d
Shrewsbury	-	0.06	14	57	r
Southport	X	0.15	X	X	r
Stornoway	-	0.04	7	45	du
Swanage	4.7	0.06	12	54	s
Teignmouth	2.0	0.10	15	59	b
Tenby	-	0.13	12	54	c
Tiree	-	0.03	6	43	r

Highest temp: Hawarden, Flintshire, 15C (59F), lowest: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 2.63in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 7.3hours

ABROAD

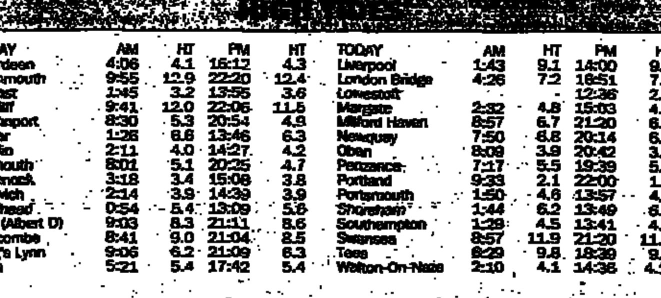
	C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s
Akrotiri	19	66	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	13	55	r
Athens	15	59	f
Bahrain	21	70	f
Bangkok	31	88	s
Barbados	28	82	s
Barcelona	16	61	s
Beirut	19	66	f
Belgrade	1	34	c
Berlin	7	45	f
Bermuda	24	75	s
Biarritz	19	66	s
Bordeaux	15	59	f
Brussels	13	55	r
Budapest	6	43	s
B Aires	23	73	f
Beijing	0	32	c
Cairo	19	66	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s
Chicago	-15	5	s
Ch'church	X		
Cologne	11	52	c
C'phagn	3	37	f
Corfu	13	55	f
Dublin	7	45	f
Dubrovnik	13	55	s
Faro	15	59	s
Florence	12	54	s
Frankfurt	9	48	c
Funchal	19	66	f
Geneva	11	52	f
Gibraltar	14	57	f
Helsinki	0	32	sn
Hong K	22	72	s
Innsbruck	3	37	r
Istanbul	12	54	f
Jeddah	32	90	s
Jo'burg	18	64	r
L Palmas	22	72	s
Le Touquet	11	52	f
Lisbon	10	50	c
Locarno	12	54	s
L Angeles	19	66	s
Luxembg	10	50	r
Luxor	X		
Madrid	4	39	c
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	16	61	s
Malta	16	61	s
Melbourne	22	72	s
Mexico C	X	X	X
Miami	12	54	r
Milan	10	50	s
Montreal	-5	23	s
Moscow	-5	23	c
Munich	7	45	r
Nairobi	27	81	f
Naples	13	55	s
N Delhi	15	59	fg
N York	-2	28	s
Nice	15	59	s
Oslo	1	34	sn
Paris	13	55	c
Perth	25	77	s
Prague	5	41	r
Reykjavik	-1	30	s
Rhodes	17	63	f
Rio de J	28	82	f
Riyadh	18	64	s
Rome	13	55	s
Salzburg	6	43	r
S Frisco	9	48	s
Santiago	27	81	s
S Paulo	X	X	X
Seoul	9	48	s
Singapore	30	86	r
Stockholm	2	36	c
Strasb'rg	13	55	f
Sydney	29	84	s
Tangier	17	63	s
Tel Aviv	19	66	c
Tenerife	22	72	s
Tokyo	9	48	s
Toronto	-10	14	s
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	15	59	s
Vanc'ver	4	39	f
Venice	2	36	fg
Vienna	9	48	s
Warsaw	4	39	s
Wash'ton	-1	30	s
Wel'ngton	26	79	X
Zurich	10	50	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X – not available

WEATHER TODAY



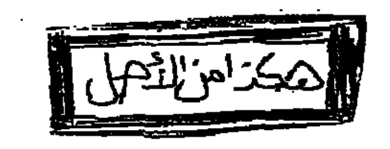
Changes to chart below from noon: low D moves east and deepens; low F changes little; highs W and B merge, move west with high S

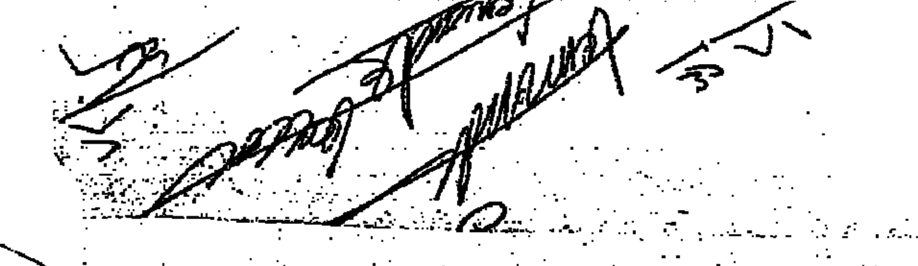


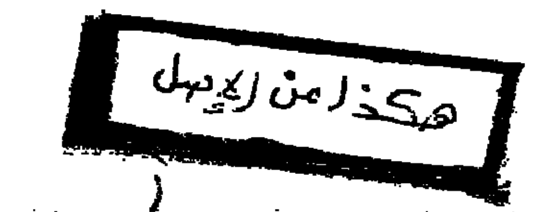
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:06	4.1	16:12	4.3
Avonmouth	9:55	12.9	22:20	12.4
Belfast	1:45	3.2	13:55	3.6
Cardiff	9:41	12.0	22:06	11.6
Devonport	8:30	5.3	20:54	4.9
Dover	1:26	6.6	13:46	6.3
Dublin	2:11	4.0	14:27	4.2
Falmouth	8:01	5.1	20:25	4.7
Greenock	3:18	3.4	15:08	3.8
Harwich	2:14	3.9	14:39	3.9
Holyhead	0:54	5.4	13:09	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	9:03	8.3	21:11	8.6
Ilfracombe	8:41	9.0	21:04	8.5
King's Lynn	9:06	6.2	21:09	6.3
Leith	5:21	5.4	17:42	5.4
Liverpool	1:43	9.1	14:00	9.2
London Bridge	4:26	7.2	16:51	7.3
Lowestoft	-	-	12:36	2.3
Margate	2:32	4.8	15:03	4.7
Milford Haven	8:57	6.7	21:20	6.4
Newquay	7:50	6.8	20:14	6.4
Oban	8:09	3.9	20:42	3.6
Penzance	7:17	5.5	19:39	5.1
Portland	9:33	2.1	22:00	1.7
Portsmouth	1:50	4.6	13:57	4.5
Shoreham	1:44	6.2	13:49	6.0
Southampton	1:29	4.5	13:41	4.3
Swansea	8:57	11.9	21:20	11.4
Tees	6:29	9.8	18:39	9.9
Walton-On-Naze	2:10	4.1	14:38	4.1

All times GMT. Heights in metres.







THE TIMES 2

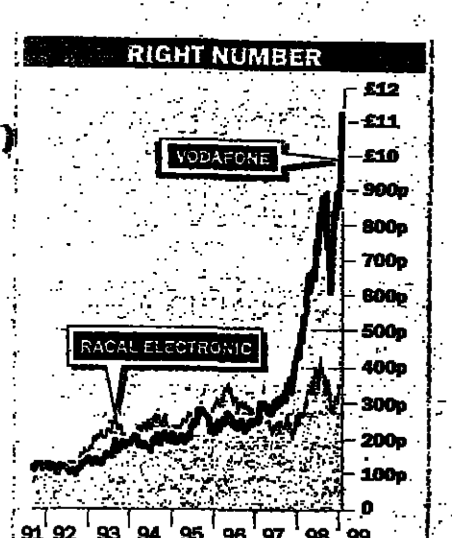
INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6 1999

Britain's biggest mobile phone group seeks £60bn American merger

Vodafone on line to AirTouch



BY CHRIS AYRES

VODAFONE, Britain's largest mobile phone group, has proposed a £60 billion-plus merger with AirTouch, its US rival.

The talks were revealed yesterday, hours before AirTouch was set to finalise a similar deal with Bell Atlantic, the US fixed-line and mobile telephone company. It is thought that both Vodafone and Bell value AirTouch at about $45 billion (£27 billion).

Vodafone, which has nearly five million British customers, has long been rumoured to be interested in buying, or merging with, AirTouch, which is based in San Francisco. Both companies are focused mainly on mobile phone markets, and have complementary, rather than competitive, European operations. AirTouch has stakes in mobile phone companies in Germany, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Belgium.

Sources close to Vodafone said the company did not plan to sell off AirTouch's North American business, in spite of its traditional lack of interest in the US market. "There are long memories in some places," one insider said. "We weren't interested in the early days, but the world is soon going to move to UMTS [the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System], and our attitude has changed."

Chris Gent, chief executive of Vodafone, is likely to head the merged group if the deal proceeds, chosen ahead of Sam Ginn, AirTouch's chairman. It is understood, however, that the question of management has not yet been seriously discussed. Vodafone sources also emphasised that the deal would be "a merger of equals" and was likely to involve an American-style stock-for-stock transaction. The deal would create the world's first truly global mobile phone company, with Vodafone keeping its London listing. The two companies have about 22 million customers between them.

Vodafone's brief statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday said: "Following recent press comment, Vodafone confirms that it has made an approach to AirTouch regarding a possible merger. There can be no assurance that any agreement can or will be reached."

Shares in Vodafone, which was demerged from Racal, the electronics group, in 1991, raced ahead 61½p yesterday to close at £11.10½p, leaving it valued at £34.3 billion.

Although many analysts consider a merger between Vodafone and AirTouch to be a "dream deal", it could still fall apart if Bell makes a higher offer. But the Bell deal had already been stalled over fears that goodwill charges after a merger would hit profits.

Yesterday's merger frenzy came only a day after figures showed that 2.5 million British consumers bought mobile phones in the three months running up to Christmas. Some analysts now estimate that 40 per cent of Britons will own a mobile phone by 2000, about double the proportion today.

SHARES in Colt Telecom, the star performer on the London Stock Exhange, surged 8.8 per cent as speculation mounted that NTL, the Nasdaq-listed cable TV group, was about to launch a £7 billion bid. NTL, which recently agreed a £160 million deal to buy Newcastle United, declined to comment on the speculation. However, it admitted that it was interested in the possibilities thrown up by Colt's development of fibre optic cable networks around Europe's financial centres. Colt said it was not in takeover talks. Yesterday's share surge, coming on the back of a 500 per cent rise in 1998, values Colt at £6.1 billion. It has never made a profit and its turnover for 1998 is unlikely to exceed £220 million.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5958.2	(+78.8)
Yield	2.74%	
FTSE All Share	2704.09	(+30.91)
Nikkei	13232.74	(-183.15)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9242.71	(+58.44)*
S&P Composite	1235.06	(+6.96)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(5¼%)
Long bond	100[illegible]*	(101[illegible])
Yield	5.21%*	(5.15%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6¼%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	119.25	(119.64)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6566*	(1.6580)
London:		
$	1.6555	(1.6601)
€	1.4050	(1.4068)
SFr	2.2644	(2.2712)
Yen	184.78	(186.98)
£ Index	98.7	(99.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1760*	(1.1827)
SFr	1.3695*	(1.3665)
Yen	111.13*	(111.80)
$ index	103.2	(103.5)

Tokyo close Yen 111.49

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent15-day(Mar)	$10.85	($11.20)

GOLD

London close	$286.65	($286.95)

* denotes midday trading prices

Abbot looks into Norwegian link

ABBOT GROUP, Britain's largest North Sea drilling company, is in merger talks with ProSafe, its Norwegian counterpart, aimed at creating a European rival to the powerful US oil services groups.

Shares of Abbot Group jumped 9 per cent to 195½p on news of the talks, which envisage a 50/50 merger of the two groups to create a £500 million company listed in London. ProSafe gained almost 60 per cent on the Oslo stock exchange in the belief that it would secure the better half of the bargain. Abbot owns KCA Drilling, the largest drilling contractor in the North Sea.

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B&B pulls plug on pursuit of windfalls

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Bradford & Bingley, under siege yesterday from carpetbagging investors, is drawing up battle plans to fight off attempts to take the building society public.

As word spread of plans to challenge Bradford & Bingley's mutual status, Britain's second-biggest building society announced that it had been forced to suspend the opening of new savings accounts.

The decision was taken in the face of fears that it was set to be overwhelmed with speculative account openings from so-called carpetbaggers keen to benefit from any cash or share windfall should the Bradford & Bingley float on the stock market.

Conversion could bring windfalls of about £1,000 to the society's 2.5 million members. A flotation on the Stock Exchange would take it in on the cusp of immediate entry in the FTSE 100 index.

At branches in the City yesterday the society was forced to shut its doors to potential investors at lunchtime as queues snaked out into the street.

Stephen Major, a chartered surveyer currently working as a plumber, has put forward a motion to the society's annual meeting in April proposing that the board take steps to convert the society to a plc and distribute shares to members. Mr Major, from County Antrim, is also seeking election to the board.

Lindsay Mackinlay and Christopher Rodrigues, the society's chairman and chief executive respectively, were confident yesterday that they would be able to defeat the resolution, pointing out that its stance as a mutual had helped it to grow over the past two and a half years from an asset size of £16 billion to £22 billion. Its branch network has more than doubled from 250 to 600 over the same period.

Mr Rodrigues said the society would have to spend about £5 million on mailing its 2.5 million members, and on taking advertisements in the press to explain the board's position. "We do not see the need to float. It would impair our competitive position. We would have to pay dividends to shareholders and more tax."

Mr Mackinlay said that he hoped that the society would be able to re-open for savers after the AGM.

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ADRIAN SHERRATT



Back to work: Gordon Brown, centre, with his new team at the Treasury. Clockwise, from left, are Barbara Roche, Financial Secretary; Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary; Dawn Primarolo, Paymaster General; Alan Milburn, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; and Lord Simon of Highbury, Trade and Competitiveness Minister

Bid fever grips car industry

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BID fever shook up European motor industry stocks yesterday on repeated rumours that Ford is attempting a three-way link with BMW and Honda and on speculation that Fiat, Volvo and Renault may join in the consolidation in the sector.

With industry gossip going into overdrive during the Detroit Motor Show, shares of BMW jumped by more than 5 per cent in early trading before falling back later when both BMW and Honda denied the existence of talks. Ford refused to confirm or deny the speculation. BMW shares closed 1.2 per cent higher at €699.

Analysts believe that while the link of Ford, Honda and BMW would be the dream company as the industry is poised for consolidation, it could remain just a dream. Although a takeover by Ford has been touted, industry experts believe that merger agreements are more likely.

Ford has a market valuation of $72 billion (£44 billion) with about $22 billion in cash while Honda is worth $65 billion and BMW $23 billion. Both potential target companies could be expected to attract bid premiums as they are regarded by many analysts as the best in their countries. With rumours of a tie-up with Nissan resurfacing, Renault shares closed up 1.46 per cent in Paris at €42.50.

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Soros ready to keep fund open

GEORGE SOROS, the international financier, has backtracked on his decision to close the Quantum Emerging Growth Fund after finding suitable managers for the investments (Richard Miles writes).

Edgar Astaire, of Edgar Astaire & Co, a leading London broker of shares in Soros funds, said Mr Soros had reversed a decision in October to wind up the $1.5 billion (£906 million) fund which hedges against movements in emerging markets.

Mr Astaire also confirmed that Nick Roditi, reportedly the UK's highest paid executive and one of the best known hedge managers, is returning after a three-month absence due to ill health to manage the $1.7 billion Quota fund. It is closing to new investors in an attempt to limit its size.

Shares rise to highest level for five months

BY JANET BUSH AND RICHARD MILES

LONDON shares jumped to their highest level for five months, fuelled by gains in telecoms and drugs issues, a firmer performance on Wall Street and hopes of more UK interest rate cuts. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed 78.8 points higher at 5,958.2.

Trading on European stock markets was far more subdued than during Monday's euro birthday rally as traders and investors turned cautious ahead of today when the first euro trades are settled. Paris shares closed up a further 1.28 per cent but Frankfurt's DAX index finished 0.5 per cent lower.

After two days of fairly smooth trading in the euro, City institutions will today face the critical test of their computer system preparations when deals conducted earlier in the week are settled.

The first transactions expected to be settled are spot trades in the euro, followed by transactions in other markets later this week and next. Bankers said the day's events would prove whether their conversion work over the weekend had been adequate.

Last Friday David Clementi, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, gave warning that London-based investment banks could face significant losses through computer glitches and human errors linked to the introduction of the euro. There have, however, been few problems reported to date.

The euro was upstaged by a resurgent yen yesterday and slipped slightly against the Japanese currency, the dollar and the pound. The yen hit its highest level against the dollar for 19 months.

Hopes of a UK base rate cut tomorrow when the Monetary Policy Committee concludes its two-day meeting are not high. A Reuters poll of 26 economists found 19 expecting no change in rates this month but 20 predicting that rates will be cut in February.

The Chancellor, who returned to work at the Treasury yesterday with his new ministerial team, faced a call from the Engineering Employers Federation to use the next Budget to help industry to maintain investment in skills and technology through the downturn.

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Travelex chiefs claim the last laugh

BY RICHARD MILES

IF TIMING is the secret to good comedy, then the management of Travelex — one of the world's biggest operators of airport exchange bureaux — should have been rolling in the aisles yesterday.

Less than 48 hours after the euro's birth and the disappearance of 11 mainland currencies, the directors of Travelex have taken control of their company by buying out the institutional investors, Abbey National and Investec, the South African banking group.

Undeterred by a projected two-thirds decline in demand for foreign exchange, Clive Kahn, finance director of Travelex, believes that the firm can continue to grow by mopping up any loose change business discarded by high street banks in the wake of the euro.

Mr Kahn said: "The high street market for foreign exchange is expected to reduce by 65 per cent following the euro's introduction. Banks will turn their backs on the business as unprofitable, while we have captured the main distribution points for the business — airports."

Travelex has more than 300 exchange outlets across the globe, although less than 25 per cent of those are located in "euroland". It has already negotiated exclusive agreements to operate at Charles de Gaulle and at Orly, the two airports serving Paris.

3i, the UK's biggest venture capitalist firm, is backing the management buyout, although it refuses to disclose how much money it has pumped into Travelex in return for a 33 per cent stake. 3i said it would take a five to seven-year view on its investment in Travelex.

Like most bureaux de change, Travelex operates on thin profit margins. It forecasts a turnover of £2.1 billion for 1999, with corresponding pre-tax profits of merely £7 million. Abbey National triggered the management buyout by indicating that it wanted to dispose of its third stake.

Gina Hunt, a 3i investment executive, said the company had spent a lot of time looking at the impact of the euro on Travelex's business before deciding to press ahead with its financing. "What Travelex have done is to target the key entry and exit points on the European continent. Their view, and our view, is that its distribution outlets and range of agreements put Travelex in a good position to be one of the key providers of foreign exchange," she said.

Campaign targets victims of mis-selling

By Marianne Curphey

A £10 MILLION advertising campaign paid for by the insurance industry and intended to target an estimated 1.8 million victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal began yesterday.

As it launched the campaign the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the City watchdog, said people who had been badly advised could be owed as much as £4,000 each.

Life companies will now begin distributing information packs to up to three million people inviting them to put their cases forward for review.

The campaign, paid for by a £10 million levy on the life insurance industry, is being run on television and radio and in newspapers.

Both life insurers and independent financial advisers (IFAs) who sold the plans in the 1980s and 1990s will have to bear the cost of compensating victims. Estimates of the final bill are between £11 billion and £22 billion.

The IFA Association, which represents advisers, said last night it hoped the advertising campaign "would not create unreasonable expectations amongst the public".

Garry Heath, chief executive, said: "We do not wish people to believe this is some form of new lottery, a substitute for the Readers' Digest draw or a new version of *Become a millionaire*. The majority of people contacted for the first phase of the review did not receive redress because they did not deserve it."

The new advertisements, which will run until April, urge consumers to take action if they feel they may have been mis-sold a personal pension between 1988 and 1994. They include the slogans: "R.U.Owed?" and "Mis-sold a pension? They O.U.".

Ron Devlin, director of the pensions review for the FSA, said: "Many younger people are unaware that they may have been affected by personal pensions mis-selling. People should look out for the advertisements and if they receive the R.U.Owed? envelope, they should read the contents carefully and take the necessary action if they would like their case reviewed."

The first phase of the pensions review, which ended on December 31, was targeted at customers who were close to retirement or had already retired. At the end of November, 388,000 people had been offered redress of £2 billion out of a total of 680,000 cases. They will not receive cash, but may be reinstated in their employers' schemes.

Phase II is aimed at people who were 35 or younger when they were sold a pension.

Pension mis-selling occurred when people who would have been better off in their employers' pension scheme were advised either to leave or not to join those schemes.

Key witness tells judge to break up Microsoft

From Oliver August in New York

THE most senior witness to testify at the Microsoft antitrust trial to date has urged the judge to break up the software company to break its "choke hold" on the computer industry.

Bill Harris, the chief executive of Intuit, the maker of personal finance software, for the first time raised in the courtroom the issue of what punishment Microsoft deserved if found guilty.

Mr Harris suggested that computer operating systems, a sector in which Microsoft has a near-monopoly, is similar to the water industry where competition is almost impossible and continual state regulation is a necessity.

He said: "It seems to me reasonable for the court to make a distinction between operating systems and other applications to the extent that the operating system is an essential service, one that consumers have no choice but to use. Such market power should not be used to leverage into other markets."

Microsoft stands accused of using its dominant position in the operating system market as a *bargaining chit to gain business* in other sectors.

Mr Harris told the court that his company was forced to cut all links with Netscape, Microsoft's internet browser rival, to have its logo displayed on the main page of Windows, the Microsoft operating system.

Microsoft lawyers were taken by surprise when Mr Harris made suggestions about how to remedy the market imbalance. Courtroom observers report that the Microsoft camp was briefly gripped by panic. The company has for weeks been trying to dampen talk of a break-up of America's biggest company.

John Warden, the company lawyer, demanded to know if Mr Harris had discussed his views with the Justice Department, which is prosecuting the case. Mr Harris said: "It was my idea."

The solution that Mr Harris alluded to would force Microsoft to spin off its Windows division, which makes the company's *main product*. This would prevent it from using the threat of cutting competitors out of Windows.

Break-up speculation has pushed Microsoft stock to new heights. Lehman Brothers predicted yesterday that the shares will move from their *present price of $143 to $185*.

There are well-known historical precedents for a break-up. AT&T's monopoly was split up in 1984 and John Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company was broken up in 1911, a move that made America's richest ever man even wealthier.



Warden: quizzed Harris



Ronnie Frost, chairman of Hays, the distribution and recruitment company, which has bought 97 per cent of France Partner, a French courier group, for an initial Fr150 million (£16 million). Further payments of up to Fr50 million will be due in 2000 and 2001, subject to attainment of targets. Hays, which controls Colirail, a French courier, said the deal lifts its share *of the French early-morning express delivery market to 20 per cent*. The two couriers will gradually be integrated.

Amazon revenues to top $1bn

From Oliver August in New York

AMAZON.COM, the top online bookseller, is poised to break through the $1 billion (£600 million) annual revenue barrier after Christmas sales more than tripled.

The company reported fourth-quarter revenues of *$250 million, up from $66 million* a year ago. The company was quick to caution that sales could fall again after the gift-buying season.

But analysts pointed out that many shoppers would have used online retailers for the first time this Christmas, and if the new Amazon customers were satisfied they were likely to return with bigger orders in the months to come.

However, the company said that it is even further away from making a profit than before. Losses are expected to increase as Amazon continues to grow aggressively. The company has added music and video sales to its website, a business with lower margins than the book trade.

Amazon has also recently opened separate websites and book warehouses in Britain and Germany, with further overseas expansions likely. During the Christmas period, Amazon shipped 7.5 million items overseas, more than in all of 1997.

Amazon's continued success will further fuel the demand for Internet retail stocks. Amazon shares rose more than ten times last year and America Online (AOL) went up sixfold.

AOL reported this week that retail sales on its network had reached $1.2 billion. But while the emerging Internet brand name companies are growing quickly, many speculative Internet flotations have failed to incite a Wall Street following.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder and chief executive, who left a hedge fund to start Amazon.com in 1994, owns about 48 per cent of the company.

Investors have flocked to the company, driving its shares up from under $10 a year ago to more than $118 this week.

Executive pay gap gets narrower

CHIEF EXECUTIVES saw their salary and bonus packages increase by an average of 9.2 per cent last year — but they were left to stare in envy at the 13.5 per cent raise enjoyed by less senior colleagues. The figures are part of a survey by Watson Wyatt, the actuarial consultant, which said there was evidence that the gap in pay between chief executives and other directors is falling. Roger Down, of Watson Wyatt, said: "Board director base salary increases are ahead of last year, reflecting continuing demand for high-quality executives."

The survey also found that the average notice period required halved last year from 24 months to only 12 months, reflecting the recent changes to corporate governance guidelines in the UK, including the Hampel report, which was published in 1998. The average notice period stood at 36 months in 1994. The survey also found that the predicted demise of long-term incentive plans based on total shareholder return is not materialising. The report looked at the boards of 57 companies, including 25 taken from the FTSE 100 index.

P&U £1bn stake sale

THE Swedish Government will gain more than £1 billion from the sale of its remaining stake in Pharmacia & Upjohn, the drugs combine formed by the merger of Sweden's Pharmacia and America's Upjohn in 1995. Sweden is profiting from the sharp rise in P&U shares last year and plans to unload its 7 per cent interest by the end of the month. The sale will remove the last vestige of Swedish influence over the company, which was wracked by management rivalry and high-profile resignations after the merger.

Dutch sale by Meyer

MEYER INTERNATIONAL, the Jewson and Harcros builders' merchant and timber group, is to take a £13 million loss on the £56 million cash sale of its Dutch import and merchant business. Meyer is selling the business to William Pont, the Dutch group. Alan Petersen, chief executive, said the sale was *"in line with our strategy to withdraw from the bulk wholesaling* of softwood and panel products". The company said it was holding on to its Dutch tiles, kitchens and bathrooms business, which has been renamed Van de Venne van der Sluis.

Precoat prediction

PRECOAT INTERNATIONAL, a processor and distributor of precoated steel in the UK and Canada, said it expected progress in its full year, in spite of an unhelpful economic and market situation. In its half year to October 31, pre-tax profits were little changed at £1.96 million (£1.94 million) on turnover 15 per cent up to £32.6 million. Earnings per share were 8.65p (8.87p). The interim dividend remains 2.60p. Ian Williams, chairman, said Precoat was looking at acquisitions and was also confident about medium-term organic growth prospects.

WBB in German deal

WATTS BLAKE BEARNE (WBB), the daymining company, has bought Fuchs'sche Tongruben, the quarries, plant and mineral reserves business of Villeroy & Boch in Germany, for DM32.5 million (£11.6 million). The purchased assets include 13 million tonnes of raw material reserves. The Fuchs quarries generated revenue of DM11 million in 1998 and WBB said it expects DM14 million this year. WBB has secured a long-term supply contract from the vendor. WBB bought Berggarten and Unnerwald in Germany in December 1997.

Burndene advances

BURNDENE INVESTMENTS, the manufacturer of caravans and ladies hosiery and operator of holiday parks, saw its shares soar 25 per cent after it announced improved full-year results and an encouraging start to the new financial year. The company's shares closed up 7p to 35½p after it reported pre-tax profit for the year to October 3 of £3.3 million, from £6 million last time. Turnover was £101.8 million (£91.3 million) and earnings per share were 6.05p (4.05p). The final dividend of 1.70p (1.30p) brings the total to 2.50p (2.05p).

Hanson for Malaysia

HANSON, the building materials group, has entered the Malaysian aggregates market by buying the Tanah Raya Group for 100 million ringgit (£16 million). Tanah owns four *aggregate quarries in southern Malaysia. Andrew Dougal, chief executive*, said that Hanson was looking for a wider geographic exposure beyond Britain and the US, which account for more than 90 per cent of group trading profit. He said: "Although conditions in the region are weak, infrastructure programmes in Malaysia and Singapore clearly hold promise."

Diploma shares hit

A TRIPLE trading whammy across the operating divisions of Diploma saw shares in the industrial group crash 28 per cent yesterday. Diploma said trading in its three divisions in the first quarter of its financial year — the last three months of 1998 — "continued to decline in worsening market conditions". It said competition in the electronics market was intense and a relative decline in housing starts affected its building products operations, while its oil industry specialist steel business was hit by the falling crude price. The shares fell 46p to 117½p.

Dresdner shifts stakes

DRESDNER BANK, Germany's third-largest banking group, is to split off $15 billion (£9 billion) of its investment portfolio by moving its large shareholdings in big German companies, such as BMW, the carmaker, into separate units. The bank, which trades in London as Dresdner Kleinwort *Benson, said it is spinning off its stakes in BMW*, understood to be about 5 per cent, as well as its 10 per cent shareholding in Allianz, the insurance group, and its 10 per cent stake in Munich Re, the reinsurer, into separate investment vehicles.

Engineers warn of severe job losses

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

MORE than 18,000 engineering jobs were lost in just nine months last year as companies were *hit by the strength of sterling*. This year the toll could be 82,000, according to the industry's trade group.

The losses were revealed by the Engineering Employers Federation, which said engineering was in the "grip of recession". The industry was rocked in the last quarter of 1998 by a further drop in output, a decline in export orders, a record low for domestic orders and a cut in capital spending plans, the EEF said.

Graham McKenzie, EEF director-general, said: "With UK interest rates at more than twice the level of our European competitors and poor prospects for the rest of 1999, there *is still a need for further cuts* in rates at the earliest opportunity. Furthermore, we would urge the Chancellor to use his forthcoming Budget to introduce proactive counter-cyclical measures, to help industry to maintain essential investment in skills and technology through the downturn."

Last October the EEF said 100,000 job losses would be clocked up by the start of the millennium. It said that, *because of the time lag between* high interest rates and job losses, the shedding of staff would be worse in 1999.

Financial hot water keeps Topper out of Boat Show

By Jason Nissé

TOPPER INTERNATIONAL, one of the best-known names in British yachting, has been excluded from this year's London Boat Show because of worries about its financial position.

The dinghy and catamaran maker's stand is a traditional fixture at the Earls Court show, which opened to the public on Friday. Robert White, Topper's sales director, said he could not remember a Boat Show at which Topper had not been represented.

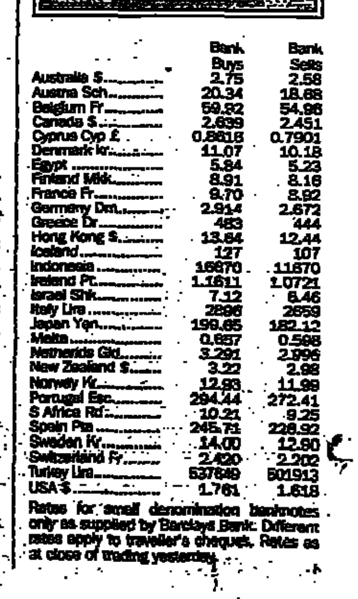
However, Topper has suffered financial difficulties because of a fall in orders from France and last month agreed a company's voluntary arrangement (CVA) with its creditors to avoid going into receivership.

Even though Topper's management and the CVA supervisor, Andrew White of Moores Rowland, the accountant, say the arrangement has secured the group's future, British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF), which runs the Boat Show, said Topper's financial *problems meant it could not* take a stand at the show.

Tony Beechey, executive chairman of the BMIF, said the position was unfortunate, but that, in the notice of the CVA, Andrew White had said that Topper was insolvent and the BMIF would not accept bookings from companies that are insolvent. "We have 800 exhibitors queuing up to take stands at the show," said Mr Beechey. "If we had accepted a booking from Topper it would not have been fair to our other exhibitors."

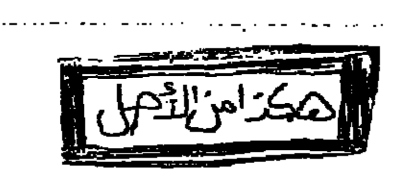
Robert White said Topper will use the £60,000 it would have spent on a stand *at Earls* Court to build a showroom at its factory in Brightlingsea, Essex.

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	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.75	2.58
Austria Sch	20.34	18.88
Belgium Fr	59.92	54.96
Canada $	2.639	2.451
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8618	0.7901
Denmark Kr	11.07	10.18
Egypt	5.84	5.23
Finland Mkk	8.91	8.16
France Fr	9.70	8.92
Germany Dm	2.914	2.672
Greece Dr	483	444
Hong Kong $	13.84	12.44
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	16870	11870
Ireland Pt	1.1611	1.0721
Israel Shk	7.12	6.46
Italy Lira	2896	2659
Japan Yen	198.65	182.12
Malta	0.657	0.598
Netherlds Gld	3.291	2.996
New Zealand $	3.22	2.98
Norway Kr	12.93	11.99
Portugal Esc	294.44	272.41
S Africa Rd	10.21	9.25
Spain Pta	245.71	228.92
Sweden Kr	14.00	12.90
Switzerland Fr	2.420	2.202
Turkey Lira	537649	501913
USA $	1.761	1.618

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Driving force behind mega-mergers



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Motor shows are expensive ways of creating a little excitement. Why else would they be draped with so many posing females, clad incongruously in swimsuits and feathers instead of sensible suits and driving shoes? And no wonder that such cabaret distracts from engine capacity and sends imaginations into overdrive.

That seems to have been happening in Detroit, from where the latest batch of motor industry merger stories is emanating. Yesterday's story had Ford in macho mood, sweeping up Honda and BMW. The details of the mechanism by which this would be accomplished were as scanty as the traditional motor show costumes, but the idea, despite being downplayed by those concerned, has dream appeal. The tripartite get-together would create a truly global business at a time when, in every industry, that much-bandied label is becoming a reality.

It now seems inevitable that world markets will be dominated by a few big players in each sector. The polarisation in stock markets is already reflecting this view: emerging euroland's enthusiasm for the leading companies is leaving the smaller stocks looking sadly unloved. Yet the first mega-merger of the year could be transatlantic rather than trans-European.

Vodafone would dearly love to join forces with AirTouch of the United States. Unfortunately, Bell Atlantic has spotted the attractions of the US mobile phone operator and has started talking terms. Whatever Vodafone's ambitions, its chances of coming out on top in a bid battle against the mighty Bell seem slight.

But Vodafone has been getting to know AirTouch for months and may yet harbour hopes of being able to concoct a proposal that might appeal to the AirTouch board. Wooing US shareholders could be trickier, but there is a strong industrial logic in putting the two businesses together to form a base from which to persuade Americans that the mobile phone is an essential part of modern life.

It is the suspicion that this awakening is due, and the fact that technology is at last making mobile telephony a coast-to-coast reality in the US, that is inspiring Bell Atlantic's enthusiasm for AirTouch. But the deal would also bring Bell a strong presence in Europe. Vodafone's hopes that it might pick up AirTouch's European operations as a consolation prize could be ill-founded if Bell Atlantic is subscribing to the globalisation theory.

Investors have been backing telecoms stocks with all the fervour that they pursued financial services companies and pharmaceuticals manufacturers. These have been some of the early beneficiaries of the globalisation trend. But other sectors have been slower to respond. More consolidation among motor companies, for instance, must lead to mergers among the component manufacturers. Euroland is but a staging post: the world is the commercial stage now.

Crisis, what crisis at the Treasury?

A new term has brought Gordon Brown a new team at the Treasury. After 19 months, a reshuffle, a promotion and two key resignations, the Chancellor has only one of his original five ministers in the same post. And he is the supernumerary Lord Simon of Highbury, who was almost invisible between the row over his appointment and being wheeled back into the daylight to greet the birth of his beloved euro.

That birth is also meant to create a euro-friendly atmosphere for publication of the Treasury's changeover plan, due within a month. No one in business need take it seriously unless the Chancellor does his bit. He must spell out when and under what circumstances he plans to hitch sterling into the Mark 2 exchange-rate mechanism, the only responsible way to bring the UK economic cycle into convergence with euroland.

The rest of the agenda is anything but new. In only its second new year, new Labour has managed to conjure up images last seen in the Winter of Discontent exactly 20 years ago, which finally consigned old Labour to the wilderness.

Then it was striking workers picketing hospitals and failing to bury the dead. In new Labour's Britain it is suffering children left in corridors and a refrigerated trailer parked behind an East Anglian hospital, to store an overflow of corpses awaiting burial.

Even Tony Blair, returning from statesmanlike duties around his holiday in the Seychelles, uncannily invokes images of Jim Callaghan, whose complacent comments on his return from a Caribbean conference evoked the headline "Crisis, what crisis".

After two years, Mr Brown has budgeted lots more for health. It is clearly not enough. But dare his new team be anything but ultra-cautious when they draft a new Budget for March?

The Treasury's forecasts are for slower growth this year than anticipated in the spending review. Most other people's forecasts are even lower for 1999 and the millennium year. Lower rates of income tax look out of the question again, unless they are designed to increase taxation by cutting allowances.

One group, at least, may be hopeful. Barbara Roche, who takes over the detailed tax role as Financial Secretary, made an unexpected hit in her previous role as Minister for Small Business. The benefits of tax help to small firms also seem to have made an impression on her. Now is the time to translate that into action.

Who would want the doctor of spin?

The deliberations of the Chancellor's new team are unlikely to be subject to the vigorous spinning of Charlie Whelan for very much longer. But can this mean that job offers have been piling in to help rid Mr Brown of his turbulent assistant?

Mr Whelan has apparently made it clear that he has no wish to find a new job in the City. The feeling is almost certainly mutual. While Mr Whelan's way of doing business appeared to be condoned and even encouraged by the Chancellor, there would be few commercial organisations that would countenance his idiosyncratic methods.

While the news of his enforced departure from the Treasury has precipitated some affectionate comments of the "cheeky chappy" genre, companies that treat their communications with the outside world as a vital part of their operations need professionals to do the job. Imagine Glaxo Wellcome, Merrill Lynch or Kingfisher allowing their relations with the press to hinge on a bar stool and a mobile phone.

When organisations are competing for business and investment, they know they need to put their message across strongly but to mislead the media is pointless: the figures will eventually tell the truth. Mr Whelan might have some difficulty in adapting his techniques to fit that world. Perhaps he is right to turn his attentions to prospects in the world of football. Perhaps Geoffrey Robinson could pull a few strings at Coventry.

Talk of windfalls

BRANCHES of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society were barring their doors against the onslaught of carpetbaggers yesterday. It was a fine sight to preface today's meeting of the Building Societies Association, intent on finding ways of preserving mutualisation. The delegates will be hard-pressed to find arguments to militate against the attractions of a windfall. They will have to take comfort in the fact that the queues outside the B&B demonstrated how financially aware the British public has become.

Abbot in merger talks with Norwegian rival

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

ABBOT GROUP, Britain's largest North Sea drilling company, is in merger talks with ProSafe, its Norwegian counterpart, aimed at creating a European rival to the powerful US oil services groups.

Shares of Abbot Group jumped 9 per cent to 195½p on news of the talks, which envisage a 50/50 merger of the two groups to create a £500 million company listed in London. ProSafe gained almost 60 per cent on the Oslo Stock Exchange on expectations that it would secure the better half of the bargain.

Michael Salter, chief operating officer of Abbot, said that cost-cutting was not the rationale for merger. However, he indicated that the low oil price was a spur to consolidation and said that an Anglo-Norwegian alliance was needed to take on American drilling giants such as Santa Fé and Noble. He said: "They have tremendous clout. That is what we are trying to address."

Abbot sees the spate of mega-mergers in the oil sector as both problem and opportunity. Alasdair Locke, Abbot's chairman and 32 per cent shareholder, said: "The consolidation that is taking place within the major oil producing companies is likely to reduce the customer base of both Abbot and ProSafe."

The merged company hopes to expand beyond the North Sea by piggy-backing on customers, such as BP Amoco, as they move to lower cost areas in the Caspian and Middle East.

Abbot, which made half-year profits of £7 million on sales of £90 million, owns KCA Drilling, the largest drilling contractor in the North Sea, as well as a drilling mud business and industrial inspection business.

ProSafe is the world's largest owner of accommodation rigs as well as the leading drilling contractor on the Norwegian continental shelf. In the nine months to September, ProSafe made profits of about £20 million on turnover of £150 million.

Mr Salter said there would be few synergies from combining the two drilling operations. However, he said the low oil price would push the oil companies into outsourcing more of their upstream activities. "Outsourcing became the rage in 1992 but the impetus dropped off when the oil price recovered. Now it will pick up again."

Mr Locke will become executive chairman of the merged company while Reidar Lund, chief executive of ProSafe, will become chief executive after completion of the deal.

Tempus, page 24

Nigeria cuts oil subsidy

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

NIGERIA has cut funding to its troubled oil industry by 20 per cent and promised a review of the funding of the joint ventures with foreign oil companies, including Shell, Elf, Mobil and Texaco.

The review could lead to a sell-off of a large stake in Nigeria's vast oil reserves, a move hitherto considered unacceptable for political reasons. Nigeria's Finance Minister, Ismaila Usman, said that auditors would be appointed to report on the joint ventures and the possibility of alternative funding. "The Government is concerned about its disproportionate participation in the operations of the joint ventures."

Foreign oil companies have been clamouring for privatisation of all or part of the average 57 per cent interest of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. State funding for the oil joint ventures will fall from $2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) last year to $2 billion. However, NNPC is still some $700 million in arrears on cash calls to the joint ventures and Western oil companies have given warning of dire consequences of falling output if Nigeria does not increase investment.

The collapse in the price of crude oil has badly eroded Nigeria's foreign currency earnings, further weakening its ability to invest. Oil revenues are expected to be just $5.3 billion in the 1999 budget, down from last year's $6.3 billion which compares with an original budget of $9.8 billion.

Battling to emerge, page 25



Michael Hurdle has been looking at a range of options to fend off W&DB's hostile bid

Pressure on Marston's

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the Pedigree bitter brewer, faces mounting pressure to pull a deal out of the hat to stand any chance of fighting off Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries' hostile bid (Dominic Walsh writes).

Industry sources believe that Marston's, chaired by Michael Hurdle, has been looking at a range of options, from a management buyout to a merger with the rival brewers Morland and Mansfield, in an effort to provide a robust response to W&DB's £262 million bid.

Nigel Popham, drinks sector analyst at Teather & Greenwood, said: "Unless they come up with something extremely creative, Marston's days look numbered. The new management team has put in place an interesting strategy, but it is unproven. Investors are only interested in the next three months. My guess is that Wolves will sweeten its offer and that will be that."

Marston's is expected to elaborate on its plans in its formal defence document, which is due to be posted out to shareholders on Friday. Other possibilities are a break-up, a sale to a white knight or the so-called pacman option, whereby the prey launches a counter-bid for the predator.

The pacman option is considered unlikely, while the chances of a white knight entering the fray have diminished since the obvious candidate, Greene King, joined forces with W&DB. The Abbot Ale brewer has agreed to buy 170 of Marston's pubs for £80 million in the event that W&DB's bid succeeds.

W&DB yesterday extended its offer until January 29 after receiving acceptances in respect of just 0.89 per cent of Marston's shares by Monday's second closing date.

Euclidian forecasts sharp dip in return

Euclidian, the Lloyd's insurance company, is predicting a sharp fall in the underwriting return for the year just closed.

Underwriting returns for 1996, insurance for which has just closed, are estimated to be between 5 and 7.5 per cent. In the previous period, Euclidian made 13 per cent.

Sir Alexander Graham, the chairman, said that softness in the insurance market was likely to continue. "There is still little opportunity for most primary insurers to increase their underwriting rates," he said. However, he pointed to some upward movements in reinsurance premiums.

Euclidian was reporting pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, of £1.7 million, up from £1.4 million. The dividend remains 2p, payable from earnings per share up to 5.03p, from 3.95p.

Tempus, page 24

Blow to Kvaerner's attack on its debts

Kvaerner's attempts to cut its £1.1 billion debt have suffered a setback with the collapse of a property sale.

The British-Norwegian engineer, which has promised to unveil a new structure in March, announced the disposal of its US housebuilding activities in October. The businesses were being sold to two buyers for about $150 million (£90 million).

However, one buyer — a consortium that wanted to buy only a residential development in South Riding, Virginia — could not raise the necessary $55 million and the estate has been put on the market again.

Kvaerner had already booked a sale profit in its fourth-quarter results, which will be reversed. A spokesman said: "We are already talking to a number of potential purchasers." Fourth-quarter asset sales totalled $290 million.

Factory jobs lost as liquidators act

About 240 factory workers lost their jobs yesterday as liquidators moved to wind up Telecom Manufacturing Limited (TML), a Liechtenstein-owned company based in Airdrie, Lanarkshire.

Ian Rankin, a liquidator, of PricewaterhouseCoopers, said that TML is owed £5 million by Telecom Sciences Limited (TSL), a company based in Manchester but also owned by the same parent, the Dubell Foundation. Mr Rankin said: "I've been in the insolvency business for 20 years and this is one of the quaintest set-ups I've come across. Clearly there are a number of unanswered questions."

Court computer system's '£60m waste' criticised

By Jason Nissé

THE Lord Chancellor's Department was yesterday accused of wasting up to £60 million of public money on a computer system for the magistrates' courts of England and Wales.

The Private Finance Initiative deal, worth £183 million over ten years, was awarded to a consortium led by ICL, the systems services group, and Unisys, the US computer giant, yesterday after a year-long bid battle.

However, a rival consortium led by EDS, of Texas, said that it had offered to supply a similar system for less than £120 million. The EDS team had withdrawn its bid last autumn after learning that it had been designated a category "A" risk factor by the Lord Chancellor's Department, indicating that the department did not believe that EDS could deliver its system on time.

The ICL consortium has, however, offered to deliver the system, called Libra, in exactly the same timeframe. This requires Libra to be operational by the end of 2001, allowing information about trials, charges and convictions to be delivered online to magistrates' courts and outside users.

EDS has complained to the department about how the bidding was conducted and has also questioned why Richard Stock, chairman of the user committee representing the courts, resigned at a crucial point in the bidding process.

Alan Gibson, ICL executive director, said that he could not comment on why EDS had withdrawn from the bidding, but that, in the end, ICL was on a shortlist of one.

The Lord Chancellor's Department was unable to comment on the bid process, but has said in the past that it was EDS's choice to withdraw.

Granada £80m hotel parcel for sale

By Dominic Walsh

GRANADA, the media and hospitality group, has quietly put a "for sale" sign over a package of 23 Heritage and Posthouse hotels with a combined price tag of about £80 million.

The properties, totalling almost 2,000 bedrooms, are being sold as part of the continuing tidying up of the hotel portfolio acquired with the takeover of Forte three years ago.

It is understood that the hotels are being marketed in two packages by Christie & Co, the property agent. However, analysts believe that, as with previous asset disposals, Granada will eventually be forced to sell the properties off in ones and twos.

The 15 Posthouses in question are largely older properties that do not fit the new Posthouse blueprint launched in September 1997 and backed up by a £60 million investment programme. The biggest are in Manchester, Sheffield, Runcorn and Erskine, near Glasgow.

The move puts a further question mark over the future of the 50-strong Heritage chain within the Forte portfolio, which is increasingly focused on the Méridien, Posthouse and Travelodge brands. One of the best-known is the 33-room White Horse at Romsey, Hampshire, parts of which date back to Elizabethan times.

Granada admitted that it was selling a number of Heritage hotels, but dismissed suggestions that the brand might disappear. It said that the disposals were simply part of the "normal churn", whereby lesser units are sold and better properties acquired. The group also claimed that the 15 Posthouses were merely "under review" and that no decision had yet been taken on whether they would actually be sold.

Meanwhile, talks over three London four-star hotels that were put up for sale a year ago continue to drag on after the collapse of a deal with Highgate Holdings, the US property group. Granada is now in talks to sell the 329-room Russell to Principal Hotels for about £60 million, while Chelsfield is circling the 86-room Saint-Georges, which is worth about £12 million. The 255-room Cavendish is also up for offers.



Drug companies inject pace into new year trade

THIS could be a bumper year for drug companies. **Glaxo Wellcome** extended its record-breaking run yesterday with a leap of 104p to a high of £22.33 as 8.5 million shares, worth about £189 million, changed hands.

Glaxo, along with other drug companies, has benefited from new year share tips and there has even been talk that Britain's biggest drug company may be poised to make a spoiling bid for rival Zeneca, up 80p to £27.74, already the subject of an agreed merger with Sweden's Astra.

Also making headway was **SmithKline Beecham**, 33½p dearer at 887p, on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Other leading shares were much in demand, especially those linked with possible corporate activity such as **Barclays**, up 54p to £13.42, and **GEC**, 22p stronger at 555½p, where Cazenove, the broker, has set a target price of 600p.

Strong performances by the drug and telecom sectors paved the way for a positive performance by the rest of the equity market. But despite further strong gains for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading, prices in London closed below their best levels.

The FTSE 100 index finished 78.8 points up at 5,958.2 having briefly touched 5,980.5. The gains were less spectacular among the second-liners and that was reflected in the FTSE 250 index, up 19.2 to 4,870.2. Total turnover reached 962 million shares.

Retailers claiming they have done well over the Christmas period are a rare commodity these days. However, Safeway, it seems, is the genuine article. It says sales were good, despite a slow start that was offset by a strong finish.

In November, Safeway, down 10¼p to 268½p, reported sales in the first five weeks of the second half up 5 per cent. Peter Jones, at Peel Hunt, the broker, expects that sort of growth to be maintained.

By contrast, Asda, down 5¼p to 158p, may have found the going difficult. Panmure Gordon, the broker, remains worried about the benefits of promotional activity and has reiterated its "sell" recommendation for the shares.

Yesterday's profits warning from the German software giant SAP sent a shudder through British software specialists. Losses were seen in **ECsoft Group**, 45p to £20.55, **MMT Computing**, 35p to 892½p, **London Bridge Software**, 47½p to £12.40; **MSB International**, 34p to 280p and **CMG**, 23p to £15.77. Moving against the trend, **MSW Technology** stood out with a rise of 15½p at 135½p.

Arcadia continued to hit new depths with a fall of 5p to 164p. Earlier this week Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, undermined the Top Shop and Burton retailer, with a profits downgrade. Yesterday it was joined by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, which is reckoned to have reduced its profit numbers by 20 per cent.

HSBC Securities, the broker, has raised its recommendation for **Cobham**, 33½p higher at 713½p. It has moved from "hold" to "buy" and rates the defence and civil aerospace group as "an attractive proposition for 1999".

Diploma was one of the worst-performing stocks, falling 41p to 122½p after it gave warning that profits for the current year will be lower than last time round. It blamed declining trading conditions.

It seems we stuffed ourselves with record amounts of seasonal fare over the Christmas holiday. **Cranswick**, up 3p to 285½p, says it sold four million chipolatas, cocktail and ordinary sausages in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Most of it was sold through J Sainsbury, Asda and William Morrison.

Sytner Group receded 3p to 179p with sources close to the company saying the company has not received any bid approaches. The motor distributor has been the subject of intense bid speculation that has lifted it from a low of 123½p.

Traders reported some heavy turnover in **Fortune Oil**, up ¼p to 3¼p, as more than ten million shares changed hands. This followed the put-through of at least two large lines of stock, including one of four million at 2¾p and 2.5 million at 2.87p.

Servomex touched 147½p before ending ½p firmer at 127½p on talk of a bid from **City Technology**, 3½p better at 203½p.

Over on AIM, **Honeycombe Leisure** reached a new high of 74½p, a rise of 5p. Earlier this week, James Baer, director, bought 5,000 shares at 70p, taking his total holding to 625,000, or 2.8 per cent.

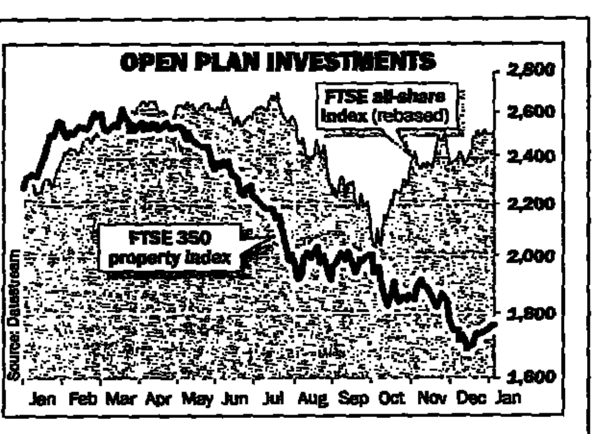
□ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market had a neglected look as investors sought other places to invest money. Prices drifted across the yield curve as money was ploughed into both the credit and swaps market.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt retreated 39p to £119.25 as more than 23,000 contracts were completed. Cash issues saw Treasury 8 per cent 2021 drop 20p to £151.60, while among shorter-dated stocks, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 13p easier at £107.50.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares moved higher in generally cautious early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 58.44 points to 9,242.71.



David Webster, the chairman, and Colin Smith, the chief executive, right, saw shares of Safeway fall 10¼p to 268½p



CREDIT Suisse First Boston, the broker, was behind a long-awaited buying spree in the property sector. After the sector hit a low relative to the market last month, the broker has now decided that it has fallen far enough and is said to be urging clients to go "overweight".

It has also raised its recommendation for one of the Tempus tips of the year Land Securities, up 29½p to 800p, and also for Great Portland, 5½p higher at 198p, from "sell" to "hold".

Its views may not set the property sector alight but, it is hoped, it may be enough to prompt other brokers to take a fresh look at the commercial property market.

CSFB's move also managed to stimulate British Land 16½p to 473p, Bradford Property 9½p to 211½p, Chelsfield 15½p to 270p, Eskmuir 13½p to 181p, Hammerson 18½p to 372p, MEPC 16½p to 422½p, and Peel Holdings 17½p to 532½p. Only time will tell whether this is the start of a sustained rally.

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9241.71 (+58.44)
S&P Composite	1235.06 (+6.96)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	13232.74 (-183.15)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9891.08 (+81.89)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	566.51 (+7.56)
Sydney:	
AO	2815.6 (-17.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5253.91 (+1.55)
Singapore:	
Straits	1386.24 (-13.87)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3679.70 (+33.76)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4200.76 (+53.28)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1419.70 (+10.90)
London:	
FT 30	3555.4 (+48.2)
FTSE 100	5958.2 (+78.8)
FTSE 250	4870.2 (+19.2)
FTSE 350	2803.9 (+35.1)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2858.54 (+54.39)
FTSE All-Share	2704.08 (+30.91)
FTSE Non Financials	2772.20 (+33.69)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.73 (-0.11)
FTSE Govt Secs	116.25 (-0.20)
Bargains	76016
SEAQ Volume	962.6m
US$	1.6555 (-0.0044)
Euro	0.7119 (+0.0010)
Exchange Index	98.7 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
ECU	1.1818
RPI	164.4 Nov (3.0%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	162.0 Nov (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

AIM VCT	100		...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	91½	−	1
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	84½	+	5
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	117½		...
Charriol	117½		...
Collective Assets Trust	117		...
Financial Objects	265	+	15
First Active	339½	+	17
Five Arrows Uts Cv Ln 2040	118¾		...
Marley B	11		...
Natl Bldg Mits Cv Pf	105		...
Natural Building Mits	5		...
Piccadilly Growth Ts	97		...
REXAM B (100)	96		...
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100		...
Willington	77½		...
Xenova Warrants	13½		...

EMAP n/p (875)	194		...
Recognition Systems n/p (9)	2¼	+	½
SKD Media n/p (15)	1¼		...

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Burndene	36½	+ 8	+ 28.0
JBA Hldgs	225	+ 32½	+ 16.8
Salehurst	131½	+ 16	+ 13.8
Union	22½	+ 2½	+ 12.5
Gieves	32½	+ 3½	+ 12.0
Capital Inds	49½	+ 5	+ 11.2
Phonelink	30½	+ 3	+ 10.9
TeleWest	205	+ 19½	+ 10.5
Northern	119½	+ 11	+ 10.1
Cable&Wire Coms	634½	+ 56½	+ 9.7
Courtaulds Text	182½	+ 16	+ 9.6
Allied Textile	111	+ 9½	+ 9.3
COLT Telecom	1037	+ 84	+ 8.8
Energis	1552½	+117½	+ 8.1
Jardine Strat	94¼	+ 7	+ 8.0
Sinclair (Wm)	137½	+ 10	+ 7.8
Servisair	172½	+ 12½	+ 7.8
Abbot Group	192½	+ 13½	+ 7.5
RCO	180	+ 12½	+ 7.4
Aus Oil & Gas	62	+ 4¼	+ 7.3
Smurfit (Jeff)	118½	+ 8	+ 7.2
JJB Sports	262½	+ 17½	+ 7.1

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Diploma	122½	− 41	− 25.0
Cityview	30¼	− 5½	− 15.3
Brit Biotech	28¼	− 2¾	− 8.8
Total Systems	59½	− 5	− 7.7
Airsprung	83½	− 6½	− 7.2

Walking on AirTouch

WITH a 14 per cent rise behind Vodafone this week (and since this column included it as a new year tip) it is tempting now to take profits. Starting the week at 976p, Vodafone was trading at 55 times forecast earnings per share for the year to next March. Now at £11.10½, the shares trade on a multiple of 63 times. At such heady levels it may not take much — say a scare that mobiles do heighten cancer risks in users — to knock the cards over.

The sharp rise of Vodafone this year is easily explained. The excellent connection numbers published on Tuesday coupled with excitement yesterday about a possible merger with AirTouch, a $45 billion rival based in San Francisco. However, both bits of good news have downsides that the market has chosen to ignore. The vast majority of Vodafone's new customers are on "pre-pay" deals, and in revenue terms these are neither as lucrative nor as reliable as the more established annual subscription contracts. Swallowing AirTouch, meanwhile, could cause serious indigestion.

But the bull argument still holds sway. Any new customers are better than no customers and once introduced to the convenience of mobile telephony, there is every chance some could become more remunerative. With regard to its overseas expansion ideas, Vodafone is blessed with foreign experience. It also has a cautious alternative approach: nab AirTouch for its European exposure and sell off the American side.

There are precious few industries that have as clearly visible growth potential as this one. In Vodafone you also have a telecoms company that is profitable. The rating makes little sense, but keep the faith for now.

Abbot

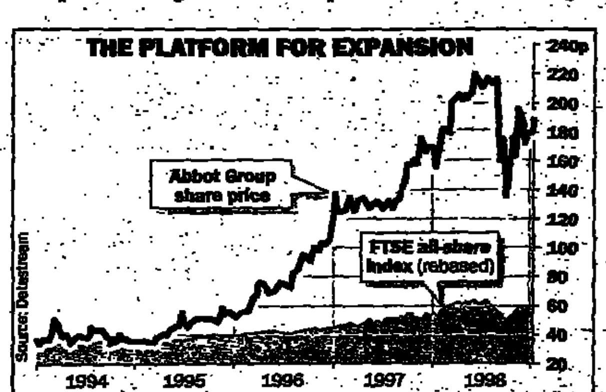
ABBOT is heading down the right road in looking to merge with ProSafe of Norway but it may be paying a high toll for the privilege.

Britain's North Sea oil services industry is at an important juncture. Exploration is being drastically curbed on Europe's continental shelf. With the oil price stubbornly low and the cost of finding and piping oil from the North Sea at $12 a barrel, there is no margin in it. Unsurprisingly, the oil majors are seeking cheaper oil in the Gulf of Mexico and West Africa.

Companies such as Abbot are doing fine working existing fields but if the exploration hiatus continues their order books will decline. Abbot is correct to draw the conclusion that it cannot afford to remain a parochial service group swimming in just one pond. The solution is to find work in more popular fields, but it will increasingly confront the financial clout and expertise of America's oil service giants.

The likes of BP Amoco and Exxon Mobil will be difficult and demanding customers, too. The merger with ProSafe increases Abbot's resources and puts more goods in its shop window. However, its apparent reluctance to seek management savings by combining the two drilling operations looks dubious.

It could be strategy to smooth the merger path but Abbot needs to drive a harder bargain with its new partner. The pampered Norwegian oil services industry cannot sit in splendid isolation for long.



Amey

AMEY has done well transforming itself. From being a a tired old civil engineering company — perennially at the mercy of construction cycle vagaries — it has now moved into the much brighter business of building and maintaining buildings, roads and other infrastructure. It has also tapped into the current trend for outsourcing.

Cynics say that outsourcing turns a one-off capital expense into a medium-term revenue expense, flattering the look of the balance sheet in the process. This is true but businesses also like to outsource because it enables them to focus on their knitting. It is like employing an accountant to fill out your tax return: in terms of time spent you may be able to earn far more than it costs to hire the bean counter.

Yesterday Amey signed a deal that is exactly like that. It will be paid £65 million over three years to run Centrica's business support services. Amey is promising Centrica that it can save the gas company money and still make a nice profit itself.

There is much more of this business to go for and unlike some of the information technology companies that are also into outsourcing, Amey will not face a fall in demand once the millennium bug has been sorted out.

Its shares rose 44 per cent last year and there is every reason to believe the surge will continue. Buy.

Euclidian

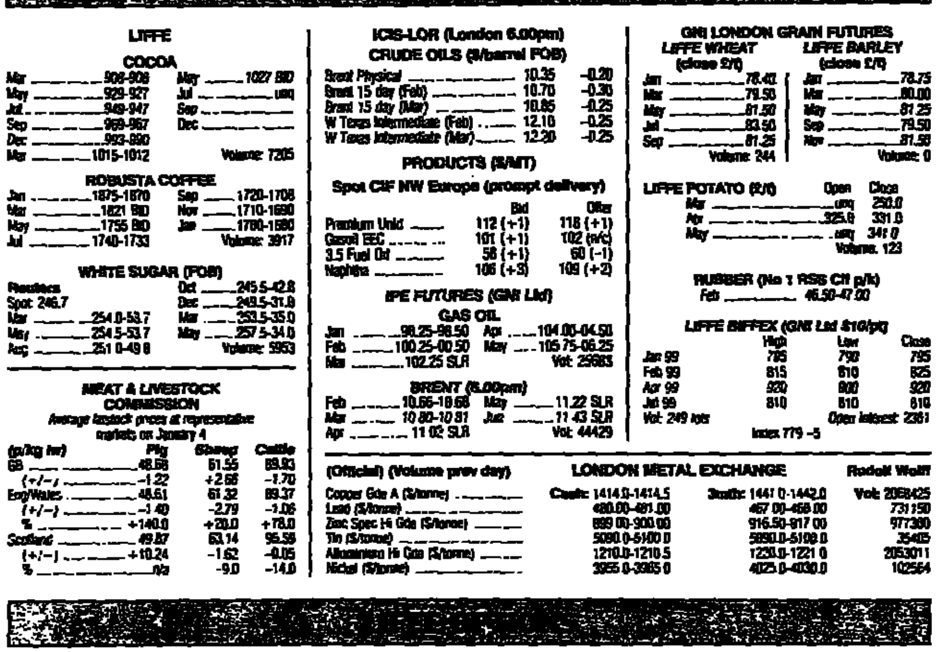
NEWS yesterday from Euclidian makes worrying reading because it confirms that underwriting conditions in the Lloyd's insurance market are getting more difficult.

There is no unpleasant shock in Euclidian's interim results of the sort that spoilt the Cox party before Christmas, but in many ways it is more serious. Profits from underwriting, according to Euclidian, will be between 5 and 7.5 per cent this year, down from 13 per cent.

In turn the worsening underwriting position could undermine Euclidian and other integrated Lloyd's vehicles. The shares are sensibly valued by adding the net asset value to a multiple of underwriting earnings. This multiple will be low, because of the almost inevitable irregularity of that income. Euclidian's net assets — the assets used to back insurance risks — are 116p a share. Underwriting earnings per share are about 20p a share. But the Euclidian stock share fell yesterday from 121½p to 119½p.

Insurance companies always look like investment trusts with a potentially expensive hobby — insurance underwriting. But valued on this basis Euclidian shares are cheap, so long as it makes an underwriting profit. Buy.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	908-906	May	1027 BID
May	929-927	Jul	unq
Jul	949-947	Sep	
Sep	969-967	Dec	
Dec	993-990		
Mar	1015-1012		Volume: 7205

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.35	−0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	10.70	−0.30
Brent 15 day (Mar)	10.85	−0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	12.10	−0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	12.20	−0.25

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	78.40	Jan	78.75
Mar	79.50	Mar	80.00
May	81.50	May	81.25
Jul	83.50	Sep	79.50
Sep	81.25	Nov	81.50
Volume: 244		Volume: 0	

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	119.75	119.82	119.18	119.25	32855
Previous open interest 100765	Jun 99				119.25	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				116.89	0
Previous open interest 0						
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.12	0
Previous open interest 76	Jun 99				108.12	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	114.60	114.83	114.45	114.54	11477
Previous open interest 35678						
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 99	128.90	129.80	128.86	129.82	3838
	Jun 99				128.57	0
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.440	94.440	94.410	94.430	25428
	Jun 99	94.810	94.820	94.770	94.810	28805
Previous open interest 1008531	Sep 99	94.920	94.950	94.880	94.940	23175
Three Mth Euromark	Jan 99	96.805	96.810	96.805	96.810	1075
Previous open interest 2005899	Jun 99	96.985	97.010	96.985	97.000	51397
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 99	96.870	96.890	96.870	96.880	2004
Previous open interest 499071	Jun 99	97.000	97.010	97.000	97.000	1483
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.410	98.490	98.400	98.470	14384
Previous open interest 134715	Jun 99	98.310	98.380	98.298	98.360	7249
Three Mth Euro	Jan 99				96.810	0
Previous open interest 13484	Jun 99				97.000	0
FTSE 100	Mar 99	5900.0	6012.0	5982.8	5977.9	22285
Previous open interest 194526	Jun 99	5971.0	5971.5	5951.0	6018.0	745

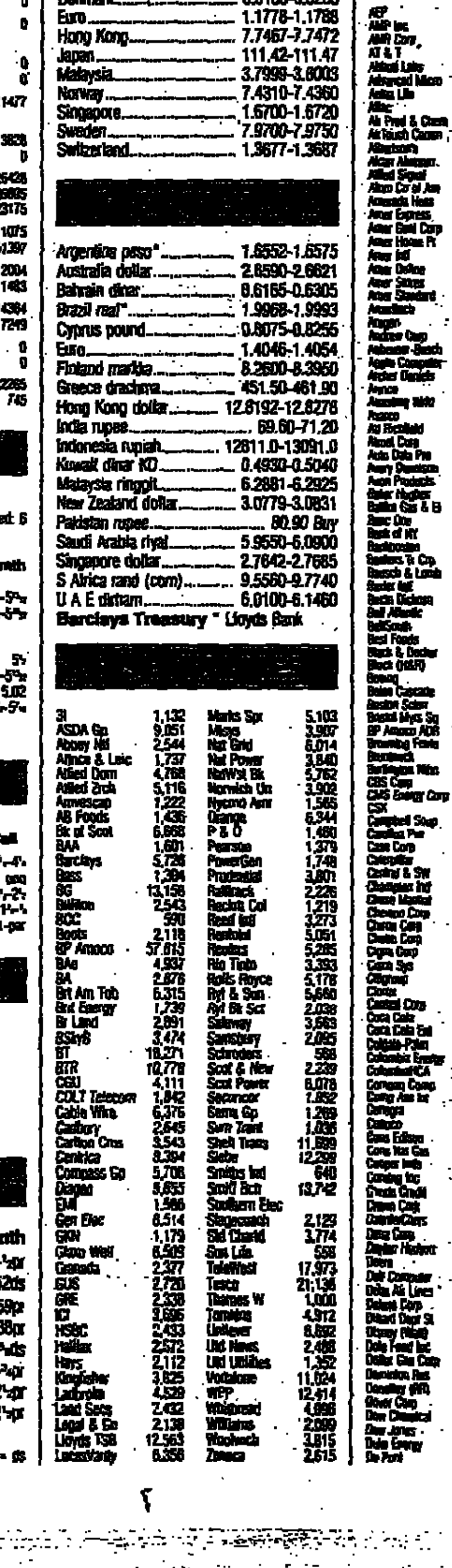
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance House 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high 6½ Low 2 Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼, 3 mth 6¼, Sell: 2 mth 6⅛, 3 mth 6⅛

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6½	6⅜-6⅛	6-5⅞	5⅝-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¼-6½	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6	5⅞-5⅞	5⅝-5⅝
Interbank:	6¼-6½	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6	5⅞-5⅞	5⅝-5⅝
Overnight: open 6½ close 5					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6	5¾	5½
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-5⅞	5⅞-5¾	5⅝-5⅝
Dollar CDs:	4.98	n/a	5.04	5.02	5.02
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	5¾-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4¼
Sterling:	6⅛-6⅛	6-5⅞	6⅛-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	unq
Euro:	n/a	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Yen:	..	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	1⅛-⅛
Canada:	—	4⅞-4⅞	4⅞-4⅞	4⅞-4⅞	1-par

Mkt Rates for January 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.430-10.472	10.459-10.472	¼-⅛pr	⅝-½pr
Euro	1.4040-1.4060	1.4045-1.4055	0.18-0.20ds	0.48-0.52ds
Montreal	2.5167-2.5307	2.5167-2.5196	0.32-0.25pr	0.73-0.59pr
New York	1.6550-1.6562	1.6550-1.6560	0.175-0.155pr	0.41-0.38pr
Oslo	12.305-12.349	12.305-12.319	⅛-¼ds	½-⅝ds
Stockholm	13.176-13.285	13.191-13.208	⅛-¼pr	1-⅞pr
Tokyo	183.76-184.87	184.68-184.87	1-⅞pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Zurich	2.2613-2.2671	2.2630-2.2657	1⅛-1pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel   Premium = pr   Discount = ds



Australia	1.6079-1.6092
Canada	1.5215-1.5225
Denmark	6.3185-6.3235
Euro	1.1778-1.1788
Hong Kong	7.7467-7.7472
Japan	111.42-111.47
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8003
Norway	7.4310-7.4360
Singapore	1.6700-1.6720
Sweden	7.9700-7.9750
Switzerland	1.3677-1.3687

Argentina peso*	1.6552-1.6575
Australia dollar	2.6590-2.6621
Bahrain dinar	0.6165-0.6305
Brazil real*	1.9968-1.9993
Cyprus pound	0.8075-0.8255
Euro	1.4046-1.4054
Finland markka	8.2600-8.3950
Greece drachma	451.50-461.90
Hong Kong dollar	12.8192-12.8278
India rupee	69.60-71.20
Indonesia rupiah	12811.0-13091.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4930-0.5040
Malaysia ringgit	6.2881-6.2925
New Zealand dollar	3.0779-3.0831
Pakistan rupee	80.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9550-6.0900
Singapore dollar	2.7642-2.7685
S Africa rand (com)	9.5560-9.7740
U A E dirham	6.0100-6.1460

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

3i	1,132	Marks Spr	5,103
ASDA Gp	9,051	Mieps	3,907
Abbey Nat	2,544	Nat Grid	6,014
Allnce & Leic	1,737	Nat Power	3,840
Allied Dom	4,768	NatWst Bk	5,762
Allied Zrch	5,116	Norwich Un	3,902
Amvescap	1,222	Nycomd Amr	1,565
AB Foods	1,436	Orange	6,344
Bk of Scot	6,868	P & O	1,480
BAA	1,601	Pearson	1,379
Barclays	5,728	PowerGen	1,748
Bass	1,394	Prudential	3,801
BG	13,158	Railtrack	2,226
Billiton	2,543	Reckitt Col	1,219
BOC	590	Reed Intl	3,273
Boots	2,118	Rentokil	5,051
BP Amoco	57,615	Reuters	5,285
BAe	4,937	Rio Tinto	3,393
BA	2,876	Rolls Royce	5,178
Brt Am Tob	6,315	Ryl & Sun	5,660
Brit Energy	1,739	Ryl Bk Scr	2,038
Br Land	2,891	Safeway	3,563
BSkyB	3,474	Sainsbury	2,095
BT	18,271	Schroders	588
BTR	10,778	Scot & New	2,239
CGU	4,111	Scot Power	6,078
COLT Telecom	1,842	Securicor	1,852
Cable Wire	6,376	Sema Gp	1,269
Cadbury	2,645	Sym Trent	1,036
Carlton Cms	3,543	Shell Trans	11,599
Centrica	8,394	Siebe	12,298
Compass Gp	5,708	Smiths Ind	640
Diageo	5,655	SmKl Bch	13,742
EMI	1,566	Southern Elec	
Gen Elec	6,514	Stagecoach	2,129
GKN	1,179	Std Chartd	3,774
Glaxo Well	6,509	Sun Life	558
Granada	2,377	TeleWest	17,973
GUS	2,720	Tesco	21,136
GRE	2,338	Thames W	1,000
ICI	3,696	Tomkins	4,912
HSBC	2,433	Unilever	8,892
Halifax	2,572	Utd News	2,488
Hays	2,112	Utd Utilities	1,352
Kingfisher	3,825	Vodafone	11,024
Ladbroke	4,529	WPP	12,414
Land Secs	7,432	Whitbread	4,898
Legal & Gn	2,138	Williams	2,099
Lloyds TSB	12,563	Woolwich	3,815
LucasVarity	6,356	Zeneca	2,615

	Jan 5 midday	Jan 4 close
AEP	47⅛	47⅞
AMP Inc	51⅞	51⅛
AMR Corp	61	60
AT & T	79⅛	77⅞
Abbott Labs	48⅞	48⅛
Advanced Micro	29⅛	29

Back to the Sixties but not swinging yet

Economic commentators are beginning to talk in quite dramatic terms about inflation and therefore interest rates. For many, Britain is well along a path that leads back to the low and stable inflation of the 1960s. Britain may not quite reach European interest rates of 3 per cent but could get pretty close — and that is whether the UK decides to join the single currency or not.

Michael Saunders, of Salomon Smith Barney, puts a pretty compelling case for headline inflation to drop to close to zero this year to its lowest level since 1960. Underlying inflation, he believes, will fall to about 1.5 per cent late this year so long as oil prices do not recover. This would be the lowest underlying rate since 1967. This, he argues, means that base rates will fall to 5 per cent in the middle of this year and below 5 per cent in late 1999 or early 2000.

If British businesses and wage bargainers begin to believe that low inflation is a permanent or semi-permanent feature of the landscape, base rates could fall to 4 per cent early in the new millennium. His forecasts do not rely on any assumption that monetary policy will be geared to providing sterling with a smooth glide path down to the euro some time after the next election but purely on a reading of economic trends. The main forces working in favour of low inflation include a sharp economic slowdown already under way that has left business with large piles of unsold stock and therefore presages deep discounting, as well as very weak commodity prices.

It might be added that the global growth outlook may look much worse than it does now if the American economy turns turtle. A new report by Bill Martin, of Phillips & Drew, and Professor Wynne Godley, of Cambridge University, argues that, in order to continue growing steadily, private spending would have to exceed income by the equivalent of more than 8 per cent of gross domestic product, double the level of last year and considerably larger than the 6 per cent reached in the Lawson boom which led to damaging bust. Debt would escalate to 2.4 times US annual income. Wall Street would have to inflate even further and the current account deficit would double. All of this is clearly unsustainable and the moment that America stops being the world's spender of last resort could be a devastating one.

The authors write: "Looking through the looking glass at America's wonderland, we conclude that should the stock market stop, it would instead fall over. A spiral, once virtuous, would become exceedingly vicious, bringing down the entire house of cards. We cannot time this pattern of events but we are convinced of its inevitability." The cumulative cost to the



world economy by 2003 in terms of *lost growth could be in the order of* 5 per cent of global GDP.

This study believes that Britain and Europe would be least badly affected by such events but, nevertheless, in an era of evidently low inflation, it does provide a strong intuitive reason for central bankers to err on the side of growth.

In the minutes of the December MPC meeting, it became evident in a long passage on the subject that the committee has begun to discuss a so-called neutral interest rate designed neither to stimulate nor restrain the economy.

Opinion was clearly divided (not least on whether the neutral rate is a usual concept for policymaking) on where the neutral rate lies. Unhelpfully for those of us trying to predict where base rates will end up, the variety of MPC opinion put the neutral rate at anywhere between 4.5 per cent and 6.5 per cent.

However, there is a camp on the MPC that believes not only that the neutral rate is significantly below the 6.75 per cent base rate that prevailed before December's half-point cut but also that base rates should currently be set below that neutral rate.

David Mackie, of JP Morgan, who has, beyond the call of duty, looked at the evidence of the past 170 years, concludes that a neutral rate for Britain would be about 4.5 per cent. All of this suggests that there is scope for UK base rates to fall to levels not seen for a generation. It does not, however, make a cast iron case for a cut tomorrow.

Among the arguments for waiting a month are uncertainty about how the January sales have gone; some evidence that the recent decline in sterling is arresting the drop in exports; a concern not to be the odd man out in cutting rates *when the Fed and the European* Central Bank are on hold and nervousness about another cut undermining sterling in the potentially volatile first weeks of trading in the euro. When in doubt, the MPC has sometimes waited to go through the full analytical process involved in publishing its quarterly *Inflation Report* before coming to a decision on rates — and the next report is in February.

However, there are also arguments for moving now. If there is general agreement on the MPC *that rates have not bottomed, what* is the sense of waiting, particularly as even Eddie George appears to have bought into the Goodhart/Buiter school of activism. Inflation is low and falling and the MPC has made it clear that it will be as assiduous in avoiding an undershoot of the inflation target as an overshoot. In addition, since its last *Inflation Report*, independent forecasts for both growth and inflation have been scaled back.

Whatever the outcome this week, it is evident that the MPC is not blind to the possibility of infla*tion and interest rates at 1960s lev*els and that the influx of academic outsiders has brought new dimensions, a more active consideration of different economic concepts and varied instinctual approaches to the process of rate setting. This intellectual flux is fascinating but, together with a dramatic change in global economic trends from the 1970s and 1980s, it makes monthly rate decisions far harder to call.

Oil-rich Nigeria battles to emerge from its crumbling economy

Brian Wilson explains why Britain must encourage democracy in 'new' country

The enigma of Nigeria is summed up in the queues, hundreds of yards long, for petrol at every filling station in Lagos and Abuja. Here is a country, easily capable of producing two million barrels of oil a day, which cannot supply its own people with enough fuel to keep their cars running.

There are plenty of explanations. The oil refineries are clapped-out and desperately in need of investment. Civil strife in the Delta area is significantly undermining oil production. But more fundamentally, this is a rich country that has been robbed and mismanaged for so long that the cupboard is finally just about bare.

So why lead a trade mission now, when perceptions of Nigeria as an economic basket case remain strong? The answer lies in the fact that political change is in the process of happening. As yet the outcome is uncertain. But there is a real, unmistakable determina*tion to make it work and if that* can be achieved, then economic transformation might not be far behind.

We should know within months whether the transition to democratic government has been successful. In February, there will be elections both for a national assembly and to choose a president. You can never be certain in Nigeria, but the indications are that these will go ahead and a new administration will be in place by May.

The transitional Government is led by General Abubakar who has no intention of standing for the presidency — a useful starting point in any such process. Abubakar has assembled an impressive team of ministers who are at pains to make it clear that they are on very short-term contracts. Their job is to hand over as stable a society and as secure an economy as possible to their elected successors.

These objectives mean that merely marking time until May is not an option. The appalling regime of General Abacha, both brutal and spectacularly corrupt, ended last June with the death of its leader. He left behind a crumbling economy and widespread civil strife in the neglected areas from where the oil wealth flows. Britain distanced itself from Nigeria after the execution of Ken Sara-Wiwa, which also led to Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth.

Abubakar's commitment to human rights and to handover quickly to a civilian government has opened the door to improved diplomatic and commercial relations. My own visit was a direct follow-through from the successful encounter between Abubakar and Tony Blair in London last September.

There is no doubt that Nigeria wants to strengthen economic links with Britain (although even now it is an export market worth some £400 million per year). There is a very direct correlation in the minds of many senior figures — often British educated — between happier days for the country and the residue of British influence.

This was perhaps at its strongest when we met Alhaji Alfa Wali, the impressive Agriculture Minister, and his team. They need investment both to modernise small farming, which sustains more than three quarters of the population, and also to develop much larger units of commercial production. They attribute halcyon days in the not-so-distant past, when Nigeria was a net exporter of food, to the legacy of British agriculturists and the 18 research institutes they left behind. All of them are now defunct.

In this, and other key sectors of the economy, there is plenty of interest among British companies, both in trading with and investing in the "new" Nigeria. But there are many obstacles of both substance and perception to be overcome.

Ministers in the transitional Government know that there are hard decisions that need to be taken quickly if interest and

GERRY PENNY



Tony Blair welcomes General Abubakar to Downing Street during his visit last September

goodwill are to be capitalised upon. And they have shown themselves willing to grasp the nettle. When I met Alhaji Usman, the Minister of Finance, he gave a clear undertaking that the dual exchange rate — a blatant scam that offers a huge competitive advantage to those who are in a position to exploit naira-dollar conversion — would be abolished.

Now that has happened. This was an act of courage as it threatened the vested interests of powerful individuals.

On the other hand, many issues still need to be addressed. There is the uncomfortable fact that Transparency International, the research group, has consistently placed Nigeria at the bottom of its Corruption Perceptions index. It would go a long way towards encouraging investor confidence if the Nigerian Government was seen to take a definite stance to promote transparency and discourage corruption.

The UK's Export Credit Guarantee Department has had its fingers burnt, over the past 20 years it has extended more than £3 billion, and there must be some indication of how inroads will be made into that debt. But the Nigerians are well aware of these difficulties and appear determined to address them quickly — not least in order to get some of the toughest decisions out of the way before the elected government takes over.

Another of these hard decisions is whether to press ahead with a privatisation programme in advance of the presidential elections. This is the *signal that many foreign inves*tors are waiting for and transitional ministers insist that it will happen. It is less an ideological matter than a necessary prerequisite to securing investment that Nigeria's utilities and infrastructure so desperately need. Oil refineries, power supply and telecommunications could soon be open to offers.

Perhaps the most menacing of all Nigeria's problems is the lawlessness that has grown up as a reaction to the previous Governments' failure to commit an equitable proportion of the oil revenues to the communities who live where the stuff is produced. The oil companies are looking to the Government to maintain the rule of law. But it is unlikely that this will have any long-term effect unless there is clear evidence that the commitment, to spend 13 per cent of oil revenues in the production areas, is fulfilled.

On top of all the other problems that they face, the transitional *Government* is trying to put together a budget that is based on an oil price of $10 per barrel. That certainly means, even on the most favourable prognosis, that there is going to be no early return to the prosperity of the 1970s for the Nigerian economy as a whole.

Yet there are plenty of British companies that have continued to trade successfully and profitably. The sheer vastness of the market, more than 100 million people, allied to the clear potential for econom*ic success if only the political* horror stories can be avoided, mean that Nigeria is a country that cannot be ignored.

The next few months are likely to tell us a lot about whether a democratic future really does exist and, if so, what it amounts to. It is a process we must encourage.

☐ *The author is the Minister for Trade. He led a delegation, including representatives from Shell, SmithKline Beecham and Standard Chartered, to Nigeria in December.*

BUSINESS LETTERS

Pound is being made a scapegoat for the misfortunes of pig-farmer

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, it really won't do for Fraser Nelson to blame the misfortunes of pig-farmer Donald Ross on the so-called strength of the pound (The euro and me, December 24). The market price of pigs has nothing to do with the exchange rate, and everything to do with the EU policy of encouraging rearing of pigs to over-supply, plus the *fact that most EU countries* have much lower, and therefore cheaper, standards of animal welfare than we have. Mr Ross may be guilty of failing to research the market before switching from cereal production, or just unfortunate in timing, but he cannot legitimately blame the pound.

The pound is not strong. Would that it were — there are great benefits in a strong currency: lower food, raw material, packaging and freight costs, and potential for lower fuel costs if our greedy Government stopped exploiting the benefit by constantly raising fuel tax. Twenty-five years ago when we entered the EEC, we had a small trade surplus with other EEC members; now we have an annual deficit with our EU partners in excess of £8 billion. Then, for a German *to buy a pound's worth of Brit*ish goods, he had to withdraw from his bank DM8.25; now, he need take out only DM2.80. Is that strong? Anyway, can anyone name a single Western country that prospered for long with a weak currency?

Yours faithfully,
GERRY HANSON,
Potters Lodge,
74A Slough Road,
Iver Heath,
Buckinghamshire, SL20 0DY.

Interest swings and tax roundabouts

From Mr A. D. Gatling

Sir, Janet Bush, in her interesting piece on interest rates (January 5) points out that the difference between our rates and those of euroland is unlikely to be maintained. More durable, however, is likely to be the difference in tax rates.

At an overall 35 per cent here, compared with an average of 45 per cent on the Continent, we would lose 15 per cent of after-tax income if we were forced to "harmonise" our tax rates, against which any temporary saving on mortgages is small beer.

Indeed, one wonders whether this may be the chief attraction of EMU to Mr Blair. Once signed up, he would then be able to renege on his election promise not to raise taxes by claiming *force majeure*.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. GATLING,
White Lodge,
Berwick St James,
Salisbury, SP3 4TZ.

Background to Berisford pay

From the Chairman of the Remuneration Committee, Berisford

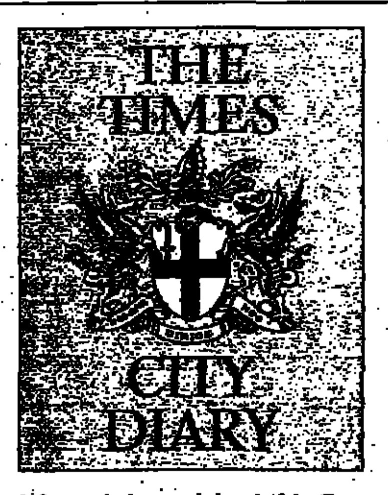
Sir, City Diary (December 17) wrongly suggested that Berisford's chief executive enjoyed a big pay increase last year despite a fall in the group's profits.

In 1998, profits before tax and exceptionals — the best guide to performance — rose 36 per cent and earnings per share 30 per cent, although a £24.9 million exceptional profit on the repurchase of loan stock in the previous year did have the effect that profits at the pre-tax level were down 17 per cent year-on-year.

Your report of November's results dealt with this correctly. In the past four years, underlying earnings per share have increased four-fold. Mr Bowkett's bonus was genuinely performance-related.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY HUGHES,
Chairman,
Remuneration Committee,
Berisford plc,
1 Baker Street,
London, W1M 1AA.

Ship comes in



BOB GOODALL, co-ordinator at SOBS, the pressure group devoted to keeping our building societies, has had to part with a family heirloom to secure funds needed to disrupt the Halifax takeover of the Birmingham Midshires.

Next week, Bonhams will auction a painting *left to him* by his late father, Sqn Ldr Bill Goodall. *Ship entering the Thames estuary* by the marine artist Norman Wilkinson is of ... anyway, it is expected to raise between £2,800 and £3,000. "My late father would have approved," he says.

Goodall senior was public relations manager for Glaxo, and also a campaigner. "When he stood for Parliament a number of times, he personally paid the required deposit."



"Hand over an account application form and nobody will get hurt ..."

A DAFT linguistic debate over the euro in, of all places, Moscow, where the authorities have deemed the currency officially sexless.

In European languages where they have to decide one way or the other, the euro is a bouncing boy — "un euro", "der euro", etc. In Russian, "yevro" should be neuter. But the local media have had it swinging both ways, either masculine or feminine.

So the central bank, sensing controversy, has reverted to Stalinist ways. "There is no official decision," said a spokesman.

Caught out

THE approach for AirTouch seems to have caught Chris Gent, Vodafone chief executive, in the outfield. He is on holiday in Australia watching the cricket, because the company is the England team's sponsor.

He has been there since December 26 and is expected back on Monday. Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, Vodafone's chairman, is head of the England and Wales Cricket Board, and Gent himself is apparently mad keen on the sport.

Vodafone concedes that it is not terribly convenient to have your chief executive on the other side of the world during what is potentially the company's biggest deal. However, "the mobile phone network works in Australia extremely well," I am told.

Death wish

THE annual Savoy Lecture on the hospitality industry is usually addressed by a bigwig hotelier or whatever. But this year Arena, the organisers have gone for the film-maker Michael Winner. Winner assures me he was the industry's own choice — "they're either masochistic or they have a sense of humour." His poisonous views on restaurants are well known from his column in *The Sunday Times*. It is hard not to warm to someone who believes the British public are being ripped off every time they open a table napkin, and he intends to say so at the lecture on February 4.

"We're the most inhospitable people in the world," he tells me — appropriately, from the Caribbean. "The English are just mugs when it comes to accepting bad service and then fuming about it afterwards."

BRITISH companies are so proud of sacking people that they announce the numbers years in advance and then add a few more when the time comes, just for completeness. Companies in euroland have not quite caught up with this.

One has just announced 1,000 redundancies for 1999, including 564 jobs it was supposed to cut last year but did not quite get around to. Guess who? Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank officially estimated to have cost taxpayers Fr150 billion, or as near as dammit £15 billion.

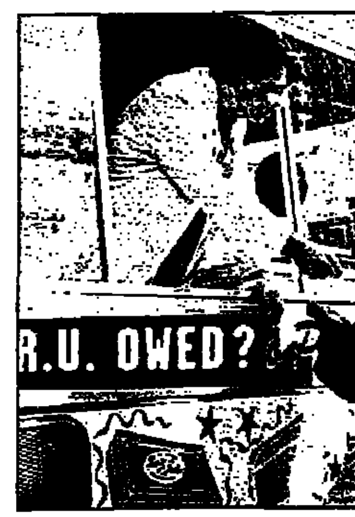
Free Whelan

MY PICTURE is of Charlie Whelan, spin-doctor turned ice-cream salesman, in the new publicity campaign by the Financial Services Authority on pensions mis-selling. Seriously, those at the FSA who have seen the commercial say the resemblance is breathtaking. Look out for it.

Incidentally, I hear there is serious talk of introducing a pensions mis-selling storyline into *EastEnders*, the demotic soap opera, in the same way that *The Archers* occasionally lectures us on warble-fly. However, a colleague points out that it is unlikely any of the cast declare enough income to fund a personal pension.

In fact, the real reason the story will never appear is more fundamental. Any member of the EastEnders cast mis-sold a pension is more likely to solve the problem by taking a sawn-off shotgun to the head office of the firm responsible than by writing a letter to the FSA.

MARTIN WALLER



Lovely lolly: Charlie Whelan finally leaves the Treasury for a real job

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	142.60	152.05	- 0.39	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	135.00	135.00		
UK Equity Safeguard	114.59	122.55	+ 3.03	2.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98		
US Eqty Safeguard	94.62	100.76	- 0.02	
Cash	957.95	962.64	+ 1.00	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	431.43	459.00	+ 6.48	1.80
UK Small Cos	81.97	87.66	- 0.48	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	97.69	104.49	- 2.54	1.89
Geared UK Index	#23.597	#24.910	- 0.51	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.90	90.80	- 0.31	6.66
Monthly Inc	44.15	47.221	+ 0.07	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	372.95	394.70	- 0.71	0.17
American Strat	171.41	182.86	1.21	
JC US Index	#28.462	#29.986	- 0.16	4.50
European Gen	461.25	488.00	- 14.04	
European Strat	206.95	221.61	- 6.66	
Japan Gen	106.03	113.87	- 0.85	
Asia Pacific	62.82	67.14	+ 1.86	1.09
Pacific Strat	87.51	93.59	- 2.76	
Greater China	155.99	166.84	- 3.93	
Latin America	60.32	64.51	- 1.27	
Intl Growth	196.29	209.93	- 5.47	0.11
Balanced Europe	182.22	188.94		2.18
Global Strategy	44.94	48.07	+ 1.32	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
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AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	83.12	88.43	- 0.13	1.66
Balanced Inc	72.67	73.44	- 0.11	1.06
Intl Excell	125.90	137.10	- 1.00	2.38
Brit Fndmntl Acc	166.90	177.60	- 0.30	3.91
Brit Fndmntl Inc	103.60	110.20	- 0.10	3.91
Europe	608.70	647.60	- 10.40	0.96

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
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Can Gen Dist	307.00	325.40	+ 1.30	1.05
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-do- Accum	579.20	613.90	- 1.30	2.77
Gilt & Fxd Int	49.40	51.91	- 0.16	3.80
Growth Units	366.80	391.30	+ 2.20	1.20
Bond	209.50	220.70	- 0.20	4.40
Intl Growth	280.10	287.70	+ 0.90	0.11
North American	417.00	442.60	- 5.80	
Far East	180.80	193.40	+ 1.20	0.90
UK Smaller Cos	251.90	268.40	+ 2.20	1.26
European	147.70	257.10	+ 1.90	0.13
Japanese Growth	28.68	30.38	- 0.02	
High Income	293.40	313.40	- 1.10	2.81
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7466				
American & Gen	356.00	378.50	+ 3.30	
European Inc	159.80	169.80	- 8.90	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	102.70	109.26	- 2.72	2.31
Growth	733.50	780.40	+ 2.40	1.22
Income & Growth #	583.40	620.70	- 5.46	4.39
-do- Accum #	949.00	1009.60	- 8.80	4.39
Japan & Gen	49.64	52.47	- 0.22	
Hallmark Gwth	1703.00	1774.00	+ 23.00	0.91
-do- Accum	2188.00	2290.00	- 32.00	0.91
Special Sits	168.70	179.50	- 0.50	1.22
High Yield	1889.00	1948.00	- 11.60	3.82
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	128.86	131.58	...	2.07
American Portfolio	202.66	215.11		0.23
European Portfolio	213.83	226.72		0.24
High Income	60.20	63.67		5.78
Japanese Portfolio	46.12	48.84	...	0.01
Pacific Portfolio	104.22	112.07		1.78
UK Equity	121.63	129.57		1.71
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UK Smllr Cos	48.42	51.78		2.38

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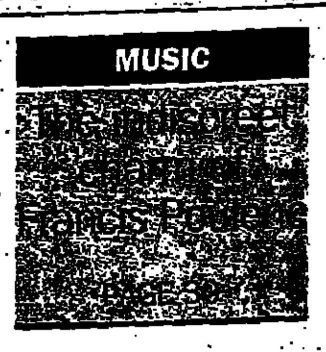
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Will Brian Setzer swing into the charts?
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THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC





A date with the end of the world

FILM: This year movie-makers are jumping on the millennium bandwagon, says **James Mottram**



Bleak vision: Riot police are on the streets of Los Angeles on New Year's Eve 1999 in Kathryn Bigelow's 1995 *Strange Days*, one of the first films to deal with the new millennium

From the predictions of *Nostradamus to the* Y2K bug, millennial angst has struck deep. *With more than* 2,000 books published on the subject since the 1950s, uncertainty and insecurity appear to govern most of the thinking surrounding the *millennium. And the* malaise has started to infiltrate our cinemas.

Apart from Kathryn Bigelow's 1995 film *Strange Days*, which depicted anarchy on the streets *of Los Angeles on* December 31, 1999, few film-makers have so far attempted to represent millennial fears. But now a glut of films is on the way to *guide — or frighten* — us towards the millennium. And the world has never looked more unstable, on celluloid at least.

> 'On the cinema screen, at least, the world is doomed'

First up is Darren Aronofsky's brash, low-budget debut π, *a near-future piece of pro*phetic madness. Not strictly a millennium film, it nonetheless harnesses an impending sense of millennial paranoia through its protagonist, the reclusive mathematician Max (Sean Gullette). Max is being *pursued by Wall Street bro*kers and Hasidic Jews, both convinced that the numerical code he has uncovered can unlock the stock market and Kabbalah texts respectively.

Aronofsky, who does not subscribe to an end-of-the-world *hysteria*, envisages the end of the century as a surrealistic distortion, inspired by his childhood. "No matter how much we laugh at the apocalypse and millennial fever, I think *some of us* have nightmares about it," he says. "As a *kid I saw* Orson Welles's documentary about Nostradamus. It was about how this mad guy *from the Middle East would* nuke New York City in 1999. So growing up there I was always terrified of the millennium."

While π can also be read as a universal expression of *our fears of technol*ogy, other films have used the millennium as a reference point for examining contemporary culture at the end of the 20th century. *2000 Seen By* is an international anthology of ten films devoted to the millennium. With each film co-funded by the French company ARTE, the collection was initiated by the *producers Caroline Benjo and* Carole Scotta, the latter responsible for the Flemish film-maker Alain Berliner's 1997 debut *Ma Vie en Rose*. Berliner is one of the directors called on to meditate on the impending date with *The Wall*, his magi*cal realist examination of* Belgium's cultural, linguistic and political boundaries.

Benjo sees the body of work as a shared set of visions. With films representing five continents, including Abderrahmane Sissako's examination *of exile in Africa (Life on Earth)*, the collective viewpoint appears to be pessimistic reflection. "The millennium doesn't mean anything any *more," argues Benjo, who part*ly initiated the project as a response to the growing delirium surrounding the date. "My life isn't going to change in 2000, and everybody *knows* that. I think we're all going to perceive it as the beginning of *one thing and the end of anoth*er. It's time for you to say 'Well, this is what I think we did with ourselves, our lives, our culture'. If you see it under this light, each *film says* something of what it means to finish the 20th century."

Other culturally specific films in *2000 Seen By* bear this out. Indie king Hal Hartley's tête-à-tête between Christ and the Devil in New York City, *The Book of Life*, is a controversial retelling of the Book of Revelation, with an ironic side*swipe* at Big Apple life. Tsai Ming-Liang's examination of personal and political insecurity, *The Hole*, is an environmental warning sign about *the accelerated decay of his* country, Taiwan.

Midnight, the Brazilian Walter Salles's follow-up to his forthcoming *Central Station*, depicts the coming together of a murderer and a potential suicide case. As Salles points out, *it reflects upon the limitations* of his own country, a place "that has declined into decadence without ever having peaked".

The most prominent film in *2000 Seen By* is the Canadian writer-director-actor Don McKeller's *Last Night*, an apocalyptic look at the lives of several Toronto inhabitants *on the eve of world destruc*tion. First shown at the Cannes Film Festival when *Armageddon* and *Deep Impact* were similarly predicting global meltdown, McKeller's film is less sensationalist.

"I thought of the practical *implications of the event,"* says McKeller, whose film depicts people performing *last-chance* acts — from bizarre sex to reliving family yuletides gone by. "*It's one* thing to think, 'I'd fly to Paris and climb the Eiffel Tower'. The chances are you wouldn't get that flight: not many pilots would be flying on their last day. I wanted to stick with people who built systems to pro*tect themselves and decided to* carry on regardless."

Metaphysical or practical, independent directors appear unable to get past the notion that the world is facing its demise. As Benjo points out: "Each film-maker had difficul*ty going over the date.* Very few of them talked about January 1 in the year 2000." Not so for Hollywood, which has finally jumped on the millennial *bandwagon. Written by the* creators of *The X-Files*, *The Mark* is set to star Will Smith, saving the Earth once again as the planets align at the end of 2001 to rip us apart.

The British take on the millennium comes from Kay Mel*lor, who makes her directorial* debut with *Fanny and Elvis*. A romantic comedy with Ray Winstone and Kerry Fox as a couple expecting their first baby as the millennium approaches, it offers a more homespun hope. Mellor, who *created* TV's *Band of Gold*, is more optmistic than most, preferring a down-to-earth look "at somebody trying to go about their ordinary life on the *night of the millennium*".

Like Benjo, Mellor sees her film as an opportunity to reflect on what has happened and will happen in the world around us, but without scaremongering. "There's a lot of fear around. I can't imagine *for one minute planes will* drop out of the sky. We watch too much sci-fi. I can't imagine all these horrendous things are going to happen. We can put people on the Moon; surely we can deal with a few figures changing."

● *π opens on Friday*

In the lap of arthouse luxury

After years of neglect, discerning filmgoers are being wooed with soft seats and sushi, **Simon Tait** discovers

Arthouse filmgoers have never been so popular. They are being *brought in from the cold — not* to mention the dingy, draughty and often smelly — to the luxurious, to multiplexes with special auditoriums *and programmes shaped to* their taste.

Warner Village Cinemas is offering them theatres with large screens and digital *sound, where their leather* seats recline at the touch of a button, where popcorn and Coke give way to sushi and champagne brought to their in*dividual* tables *and individual* ice buckets. Meanwhile, in partnership with City Screen, Mayfair Entertainment, owner of the Curzon cinemas, has gambled *more than £2 million* to eschew mainstream programming in its Shaftesbury Avenue cinema for a three-screen arthouse.

The *new Curzon Soho* is open from 8am, providing the kind of comfortable, clubby feel that the National Film Theatre had in mind for its proposed West End presence before it had to drop its plans. There is a street-level bar serving coffee, beer, sandwiches, magazines and gossip, a base*ment bistro-style café which* doubles as an art gallery, and programming on three screens that covers the arthouse spectrum from nostal*gia (such as Capra's It's a Wonderful Life*, in the current programme) to cult (like Imamura's *The Eel*).

Thanks to multiplexes, the 52 million UK cinema admis*sions of 1984* have climbed to 130 million — but without any serious analysis of who the *filmgoers* are, or what they want. Now cinema owners are not only waking up to the fact that their audiences have grown up, they're realising that they are wealthier, too.



Melbourne's Jam Factory — "the most successful cinema in Australia" — sets the UK pattern

"People who go to arthouse films care about the environment in which they see their choice of movies, and there is a *growth in older audiences,"* says Mayfair's chief executive, Marc Vlessing. "But we can't *afford to commit a single* screen for specialist films, so we can open a new release in the bigger *249-seat auditorium* and then move it to the smaller 130-seat or 110-seat one to give the film a proper season. We are serving a neighbourhood, Soho, and we intend to open more designed for the neighbourhoods they're in. A lot of *people are coming here during* the day to meet people and have a drink without seeing a movie at all. There's an ageing audience in a younger market, and we're in danger of leaving them behind." Does it work? Officially, Curzon says it's too *early to tell other than that* there's been a "transformation" in ticket sales since they *opened early in October*, but insiders say they're selling as many tickets in a day as they were in a week.

Warner Village, the new kid on the high street, now has 22 multiplexes in Britain and will more than double that in three *years. Among the develop*ments it is about to announce is a 16-screen multiplex for Nottingham, on the site of the old *Evening Post*. Two of the auditoriums will be Europa Screens, dedicated to what Warner Village — a partner*ship for the UK* between Warner Brothers and the Australian Village Roadshow — prefers to *call non-mainstream rather* than arthouse, with a bar slanted at the filmgoer devoted to subtitles. *Two will be* VIP Screens, the offspring of a highly successful Australian gamble. A year ago, three weeks before the new Village Roadshow multiplex was due to open on the site of a jam factory in Melbourne's trendy Chapple Street, the company *suddenly concluded that it* was ignoring an older and richer audience and decided on a complete change of tack. In the parlance of our airline-*wise culture*, instead of consigning all its customers to tourist class, why not upgrade a significant element to business class? So in four of the 16 auditoriums, two-thirds of the seats were torn out and recliners put in with table service and all the trimmings, plus free popcorn if required. Tickets cost $25 compared with $11 for the other screens.

One year later its project manager, Simon Jeffries, is in Britain as Village's European projects manager. "The Jam Factory *was instantly* full and is the most successful cinema *in Australia,"* he says. The Nottingham follow-up for 2000 is the first of many planned "bespoke" developments, tailored for their communities: Birmingham is to get a 30-screen Star City, also in 2000; in 2003 Battersea Power Station gets 25 screens and 8,000 seats; even medieval Worcester is to get *a six-screen version*.

"We're offering more bang for your buck, catering for an audience that *is cash-rich and* time-poor," Jeffries says. "It's not about elitism, it's about aspiration. People will pay more for the extra service in the VIP *auditorium* where the fuss of getting food and drink is sorted for them, and we also be*lieve that you should* be able to watch foreign-language or non-mainstream movies in a classy, *European ambience*. Multiplexes were becoming production lines for feeding teenagers action *movies*, but there is another dimension to the audience."

Clunk that clicks

THEATRE



MARILYN KINGWILL

Nyree Dawn Porter does her best to fizz as Coward's Carlotta

Song at Twilight is far from Coward's best play. As I observed Corin Redgrave in Sisyphus-*like* combat with some of the most lapidary dialogue the Master ever wrote, I found my*self wondering if it is even par*ticularly good. But it has a special importance because it is the piece in which, emboldened by the spirit of the *mid-1960s, the ageing Coward* directly confronted the great unpublicised truth of his life. In the person of Sir Hugo Latymer, dramatist and novelist, *he wrote directly about* the predicament of the homosexual for whom fame and fortune mattered more, much more than emotional candour.

But note that word, "predicament". Latymer is not a self-portrait, nor is *Song* quite the confessional play some hold it to be. I don't know why *Sheridan Morley, who is Cow*ard's biographer as well as director of the highly competent staging at the King's Head, says in the programme he has "never quite believed" the author's claim that he based the play on Somerset Maugham. *Latymer lacks Coward's grace*, kindness and wit, and has spent his life flaunting a spurious *heterosexuality, not least* by making the sort of loveless marriage that would have morally *disgusted* Coward. *That* suggests Maugham, Maugham and Maugham again.

Yet *Maugham's* predicament was also that of Coward, Rattigan, and several other writers impelled *by prejudice* and a nannying censor to *translate homosexual* into heterosexual experience. It is a truism that *The Deep Blue Sea* and *Private Lives* fall into precisely that category. So if an actress called Carlotta Gray had arrived in his hotel suite, announcing her intention to hand some compromising letters to an American aca*demic with biography on his* mind, Coward would not have been vastly more enchanted than Latymer or Maugham. To that extent *Song at Twilight lets light into his secret places*.

But it is a pretty clunky piece. Even when Nyree *Dawn* Porter's sharp-witted Carlotta is exasperating Hugo with old memories, importu*nate* requests and cutting accusations, the language refuses to fizz as it would have banged *and fizzed in Coward's 1920s* or 1930s. And would even Maugham at his most pompous have answered an innocent remark about feeling the threat of rain in one's bones *with "that particular form of* prescience is rheumatic rather than clairvoyant"? Given so few opportunities for humour, Redgrave falls back on a lumbering *superciliousness, and* impresses mainly when fear and pain touch his half-ossified heart.

Nevertheless those mo*ments, plus a touching profes*sion of understanding, loyalty and grief from Kika Markham as Hugo's *much-misused* wife, do give the play some of the eloquence Coward wanted. Yes, Latymer's sexual fibs have cost him and others a lot. *But*, yes, he *is right to protest* that "even when the actual law [against homosexual acts] ceas*es to exist there will still be a* stigma attached to the love that dare not speak its name — in the *minds of millions* for generations to come".

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Count's lady sings the blues

JAZZ

The story goes that Carmen Bradford brought herself to the attention of her most celebrated employer, Count Basie, and suggested that he would be missing out if he didn't hire her to sing with his early-1980s orchestra. Her chutzpah paid off: she stayed nine years with the band, winning two Grammies along the way, and subsequently launched herself on a solo career so successful that Hollywood has reportedly taken out an option on her life story.

It was thus a little surprising to hear her confess to being nervous about her first appearance at Ronnie Scott's, particularly since she treats her audience with the formidable combination of strident hectoring and intimate teasing patented by the likes of her countrywomen Oprah Winfrey and Rikki Lake.

Such nerves were in any case thoroughly banished by the time Bradford had romped through her opening number, *Then There Eyes*. Hers is a no-nonsense, attention-grabbing voice well suited to familiar up-tempo belters such as this, and with a neat yet assertive trio — pianist John Rangel, bassist Orlando Le Fleming, drummer Mark Fletcher — providing solid propulsion, she was quickly into her considerable stride.

A strong but soulful visit to *Maybe September* was personalised by being preceded by the assertion that Bradford's mother — also a singer — made her do her chores to it; a skilfully scatted version of *Mr Paganini* sparked off a string of self-deprecatory anecdotes about the number of people — including her father, the trumpeter Bobby Bradford — who had warned her not to tread on ground hallowed by Ella.

It is ballad material, though, that provides a singer's acid test. Bradford's controlled glide through the melancholy end-of-relationship lament, *Where Do You Start?*, while not quite reaching the emotional depths explored in Shirley Horn's version, nevertheless provided a highly effective contrast to such greasy, R&B-laced fare as *It Ain't No Use*, and her quietly contemplative *Young and Foolish* brought out all the song's mellow nostalgia without undue sentimentality.

Bradford's forte, however — unsurprisingly, given the Basie outfit's legendary aptitude in the form — is the blues. Her closing number, a loose, raunchy celebration of the medium, consequently enabled her to showcase all her considerable talents: her voice swooped and soared; brightly inventive scatted sections jostled appealingly with vigorous emotional outbursts and sudden ejaculations. By the time she had brought the number to an end with a powerful "That's all!", Bradford had achieved her aim: an exuberant crowd had been audibly uplifted.

CHRIS PARKER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SIMONE REBELLO

Age: 2?.

Profession: Percussionist. She is the founder member of Backbeat, a percussion quartet which has built up a strong reputation over the past three years. You can hear them at the Purcell Room on February 2, or on their self-titled CD.

What's unusual about Backbeat's rhythm method? Instead of just standing behind drums, marimbas and music stands, Rebello and her three male colleagues roam the stage, sing, and use basketballs and their own bodies as instruments. "I wanted to make percussion more theatrical."

Basketballs? "The lads are into basketball and play in rehearsal breaks. We wondered if we could incorporate the game into our concerts and quartet member Damien Harron created *Rebounds*, in which two of us drum and the others pick up the rhythm by bouncing basketballs on the stage."

Repertoire: "There's a lack of good quartet percussion music, so we write a lot ourselves. We also play work by people like John Cage and Steve Reich."

Base drums: She first picked up sticks as a schoolgirl in Croydon. "There was a very strong woodwind tradition and I dutifully signed up for the flute. But after a year on the waiting list, I thought 'This is never going to happen' and went along to percussion with a friend."

Tuition: She won two percussion prizes at the Royal Northern College, in Manchester. "My tutors — Graham Johns, Ian Wright and Dave Hassall — were very influential. Seven years after graduating, if I'm in a fix I still go to them."

Why does her Portuguese surname sound familiar? She is a first cousin of the acclaimed jazz pianist Jason Rebello.

The Backbeat motto? "There's nothing we wouldn't do in a concert."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



Soon, on a worldwide stage near you: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will have an audience of hundreds of millions when they entertain football fans at America's Super Bowl later this month

What daddy-o did in the war

POP: Stand by your zoot suits, the big bands are back — and jumping.

Nigel Williamson on the Forties sound that's hot in the Nineties

On the floor of New York's Hammerstein Ballroom zoot suits and flared skirts abound. Dances such as the lindy hop and the jitterbug, scarcely seen in half a century, are being executed with immaculate precision and flamboyant skill. On stage the Brian Setzer Orchestra, with its 13-piece brass section, all of them dressed in green suits behind matching orchestra desks, is blaring out a mixture of swing, jump and jive as if Cab Calloway and Louis Jordan had never gone away. At the bar the only drink to be seen sipping is a fruit-flavoured martini complete with umbrella. It may be 1999 but it seems that swing is the thing once again.

In an improbable pre-millennium trend, the big band craze is currently sweeping America, as a new generation discovers the excitement of a sound that was last in vogue at the end of the Second World War. Bands such as the Brian Setzer Orchestra, the Squirrel Nut Zippers and the Cherry Poppin' Daddies have sold millions of records in America over the past year. Last month *Rolling Stone*, still America's rock'n'roll bible, devoted a ten-page special to the swing revival. Later this month, another swing band, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, will be seen by hundreds of millions of television viewers around the world, when they perform at American football's Super Bowl.

In Britain, too, swing is tipped to be the next big thing. Although there has been little chart action to match America yet, clubs with names like Zoot Suit Riot are opening everywhere and there are now an estimated 40 dance nights a week around Britain, offering not only the best in swing music, but classes in the accompanying dance steps. There is a growing number of British swing bands, too, led by the Big Six from London, who have just signed a major deal with Mercury Records.

"It's a reaction to years of grunge," says Jason Moss of Cherry Poppin' Daddies from Oregon, who have sold a million albums in America and made a big impact on their first visit to Britain last year. "The prevailing sound has been very dark and introspective for a long time. People are tired of that and want something more exuberant."

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy were perhaps the first to draw attention to the swing revival when they appeared in Jon Favreau's 1996 hit movie, *Swingers*. "We're coming from a jump sound, from people like Louis Armstrong, who played music that was more raw, more rocking than traditional swing," says singer and guitarist Scotty Moore. "I've never thought of our music as retro. Swing was originally like punk rock, the early primitive stuff, that big band mambo with people dancing in the aisles before it became polished and clean and tame. What we do is wild and swinging Forties music with a Nineties twist."

All are agreed that the swing revival has no future if it just sets out to replicate the sound of the past. "If you copy what they did 50 years ago it's not going to be bad, but it is doing it just the same," says Setzer who, as the former leader of rockabilly revivalists the Stray Cats already had a reputation as an inventive musical archaeologist. "To make the music viable you have to make it new and you have to make it your own. That's why the Stray Cats were successful in the Eighties. Other rockabilly bands were stuck in 1956. We gave it a new lick of paint then and that's what we are doing now."

> ‘Swing was like punk rock, the early primitive stuff, that big band mambo with people dancing in the aisles’

Like the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Setzer's album, *The Dirty Boogie*, went Top Ten in America. The sound is loaded with brass but is dirtier and funkier than the smooth mellifluousness of a Glenn Miller or Benny Goodman. "It's rockabilly, swing and rock'n'roll all put in that big band thing," Setzer says. "Everyone said: 'What are you doing taking big band music from the Forties and adding electric guitar?' They said it would never work. Now it's rolling. It's got style, a great vibe and great dances. It's on fire."

Setzer, who has also played on albums with Bob Dylan, Robert Plant and Ricki Lee Jones, put the orchestra together in 1993. "They were basically jazz musicians and I couldn't explain how to rock to them so it was initially hard," he says. "But we went on the road for a 50-city North American tour and they soon learnt. It hasn't been easy from a business standpoint. The cost of touring with such a large band is enormous and at first there was no radio airplay or music video exposure. We built it up on word of mouth. Once people saw us they would talk about us and that's how it eventually took off." The orchestra is due in Britain in March.

Most of the new generation of swing musicians are not teenage hopefuls but thirtysomethings disillusioned with the banality of much modern rock music. Steve Perry, 34, of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, says: "Swing bands are the antithesis of all those tired rock clichés. It's less tortured. There is no reason why swing can't be a viable modern music. Does it all have to be angst? When Count Basie got out there and smiled and the band was all brassy, it felt like a warm day and everything was going to be all right. What's wrong with that? Swing is probably addressing some kind of need in people right now."

Robert Austin, Britain's leading promoter of swing and a former dance champion himself, agrees. His club nights attract huge crowds, many of them dressed in full Forties costume. "When the Cherry Poppin' Daddies came to play in London I thought it was the best thing I had seen since the Jam in 1979," he says. "Swing in Britain is really exciting. We've seen what has happened in America and I'm sure exactly the same is going to happen here. It's a wave and you can either ride it or get very wet."

● The Dirty Boogie *by the Brian Setzer Orchestra and* Zoot Suit Riot *by Cherry Poppin' Daddies are both released by Universal Records. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's album will be released in the spring*

VISUAL ART: In Venice, **John Russell Taylor** stands stunned by the contradictory wisdom of the Ancients

A masterclass from the Mayas

Imagine a civilisation so sophisticated that it could still give us pointers on the measurement of time and the movement of heavenly bodies, and yet one whose technology did not include the wheel, and whose graphic art knew nothing of perspective. Add the fact that all its remains offer no unequivocal evidence of humour, and seem to exclude completely the gentler feelings of love and tenderness. Something on another planet, maybe? Certainly that is where one often feels oneself to be in the huge and glorious *Maya* show, the latest of a series which has already filled Fiat's Venice art flagship, the Palazzo Grassi with the Celts, the Phoenicians and the Greeks.

But if one feels strange, one never feels alienated. No belief in intervention from outer space is required to fit the Maya into the human race. It is just not quite the human race as we Indo-Europeans know it. It is a measure of the civilisation's philosophical sophistication that it could comprehend and reconcile opposites without the slightest difficulty, while in Europe generations of philosophers struggled in vain, and struggle still. This may be the reason that for every categorical assertion about the Maya and what they did and did not do, did and did not know, there is always at least one glaring exception.

We say they did not know the wheel, and for themselves they did not. But their children's toys often ran on wheels. We say that they never discovered perspective, and yet there is one obvious instance, in a ceiling painting from Bonampik meticulously reconstructed for this show, where on one side a wounded warrior sprawls up a flight of stairs with quite Mannerist abandon, in full perspective some seven centuries before the Spanish conquest. It is almost as though they knew everything, but just chose not to bother with some. Even humour and tenderness may perhaps be seen, although the only tender moment is in a small ceramic where a young woman delicately touches the face of a very old man, and we can only guess at humorous intent in some of the more grotesque figurines.

> ‘Throughout the show the shock of strangeness and of recognition recurs’

A large archaeological show like this should preferably satisfy both the specialist and the general public. For the experts in matters Mayan I have spoken to, the first criterion is well met: they are all ecstatic about the depth of the curators' researches, the astonishing way that if some tiny provincial museum in Mexico has just one outstanding piece, it has been tracked down and borrowed. At worst there are some quibbles about interpretation.

As far as the wider public is concerned, there can be no doubt whatever. If before entering you knew of the Maya only that they lived in Mexico before the conquest, you could rely on coming out with a clear insight into the history and a vivid feel for the nature of this remote and mysterious culture. Better still, you would have had an unforgettable aesthetic experience.



A ceramic showing an anthropomorphic figure emerging from a flower, found at Jaina Island, Campeche, Mexico

From that point of view, *Maya* is probably the best of the Palazzo Grassi's archaeological blockbusters. It might fairly be said of some of its predecessors that they were fascinating in a Brain-of-Britain kind of way, but great art was a little thin on the ground. Here, on the other hand, the simple, monumental design of Agata Toricella Crespi and her team is perfectly calculated to show off the works included as things worth looking at in themselves, rather than as mere stages in a continuing historical argument.

And what wonders it offers the eye. Should one arrive by water, the first thing one sees is the Chac Mool reclining figure in stone which so inspired Henry Moore that it set off the great series of reclining figures which were to preoccupy him for the next half a century. Whatever else, it serves to remind us that nothing in art is so remote that it cannot feed something of itself into our own aesthetic mindset.

Throughout the show the shock of strangeness and simultaneously of recognition recurs. The grander temple sculptures of gods and priests still seem decidedly sinister, but at the same time stagger us with their totally confident grasp of contained yet dynamic form. From the largest stone sculpture to the smallest ceramic, one cannot but be impressed with the Mayan sense of proportion, their ability to combine obsessively intricate detail with a daringly simple grasp of the whole to which the detail must ultimately be subordinated.

The show's other big surprise is the richness and variety of the colours in Mayan life and art. Most of even the largest carvings seem to have been brilliantly painted, while the pictures on plates and vessels, the reconstructed murals and the illuminations in manuscripts (represented by photographs, since the originals are too delicate to travel) all testify to the abounding life which surrounded and contained the Mayan obsession with death — very much as it does in modern Mexico.

● Maya, *Palazzo Grassi, San Samuele, Venice (003904I 522 9875)*

■ LISTINGS
Sher in The Winter's Tale

ARTS

■ MUSIC
Young talents showcased

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE LIFE OF EDWARD II OF ENGLAND: Andrew Visnevski directs the Cherub Theatre Company in Bertolt Brecht's rarely seen first epic play. Billed as a heroic tragedy it charts the corrupting influence of power while drawing on cabaret, fairground entertainment and street ballads.
Riverside Studios, W6 (0181-237 1111). *Opens tonight, 7.30pm.*

PLG YOUNG ARTISTS: The first of tonight's two concerts by gifted young musicians features the pianist *Stephen De Pledge (6pm). At 7.30pm* Ruth Darby, Maria King and Alon Goldstein play more contemporary tunes by such household names as Ben-Zion Orgad and Graham Hair.
Purcell Room (0171-960 4242).

KONTRABANDE: This recently formed ensemble of countertenor, oboe, five strings and keyboards states its aim as shedding fresh light on the music of the 17th and 18th centuries. On the evening's menu are works by Bach, Vivaldi and Handel.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

JEAN JONES: Opening date for an exhibition of vibrant paintings from *the studio of the realist Oxford artist.* The show runs in tandem with the estate sale of Lucy Carrington Wertheim.
Duncan Campbell (0171-937 8665).

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The charismatic Yan Pascal Tortelier renews his acclaimed partnership with the National Youth

Yan Pascal Tortelier conducts in Birmingham

Orchestra of Great Britain in a spectacular programme of orchestral showpieces. Opening the evening are Wagner's *Prelude* and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde followed by works* by Debussy, Strauss and Ravel.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 8pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Antony Sher plays the jealous Leontes in Gregory Doran's production of The Winter's Tale. Estelle Kohler plays the censorious Paulina.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ *House full, returns only* ◪ *Some seats available* □ *Seats at all prices*

□ **COURT IN THE ACT:** 19th-century French farce by Hennequin and Veber catching the law with its trousers down.
Orange Tree (0181-940 3633).

□ **THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE:** The D'Oyly Carte Company brings Gilbert and Sullivan's joyful adventures with pirates, policemen and a modern major-general to the West End.
Queens (0171-494 5041).

◪ **THE TEMPEST:** David Calder excellent in Adrian Noble's colourful RSC production from Stratford.
Barbican, (0171-638 8891).

■ **CHICAGO:** Maria Friedman in the revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about murder and fickle fame.
Adelphi (0171-344 0055).

□ **DICK BARTON SPECIAL AGENT:** Journey back to the 1940s with the famous old radio thriller, brought to life by Phil Wilmott. Ted Craig directs.
Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060).

□ **THE GOLEM:** David Burt and Gaye Brown star in Sylvia Freedman and Cathy Shostak's uplifting new musical about the man-made monster who runs amok.
New End (0171-794 0022).

□ **JESUS MY BOY:** Tom Conti in John Dowie's fitfully amusing comedy giving Joseph's side of the story.
Apollo (0171-494 5070).

◪ **PETER PAN:** Justin Salinger in the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in return of Fiona Laird's enjoyable production.
Olivier (0171-452 3000).

◪ **THE SNOWMAN:** The much-loved Raymond Briggs characters soar in Bill Alexander's joyful production.
Peacock (0171-863 8222).

□ **ARABIAN NIGHTS:** Ali Baba, Sinbad and lesser known tales adapted and directed by Dominic Cooke.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

□ *CINDERELLA: Neil Bartlett and* the Shockheaded Peter team stage a *seriously wonderful version of Angela* Carter's panto.
Lyric (0181-741 8701).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE ACID HOUSE (18) *Three darkly* comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucination by Irvine Welsh. An indigestible onslaught. With Stephen McCole, Ewen Bremner, and Kevin McKidd. Director, Paul McGuigan.

SITCOM (18) A French bourgeois family unbuttons itself. Mildly diverting lampoon, *excellently acted ensemble* cast. Director, François Ozon.

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG): Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceable race who have found the elixir of youth. Lightly likeable. With Donna Murphy, F. Murray Abraham. Director, Jonathan Frakes.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wades through the afterlife trying to find his loved ones. Technically dazzling, but sabotaged by a woolly script.

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U): Splendid *animation, but there's not* much for kiddies in the biblical story of Moses leading the Israelites to the promised land. Voice talents include Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes.

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U): Everyone's favourite talking pig faces the torments of the hostile city. Grotesque, misguided sequel to the hit film. With Magda Szubanski.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG): Compressed and perfunctory version of Brian Friel's play about five spinster sisters in 1930s Donegal. With Meryl Streep, Catherine McCormack and Kathy Burke.

CURRENT

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15): Will *Smith's lawyer tumbles upon a* political conspiracy. Exciting, fast-paced thriller, with Gene Hackman and Jon Voight. Director, Tony Scott.

THE MIGHTY (PG): Endearing tale of two outcast children, one hulking, one crippled, who pool their resources. Peter Chelsom directs Sharon Stone, Kieran Culkin and Elden Henson.

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG): Refined relationship comedy, with a marvellous cast and lip-synched snatches of popular songs. Alain Resnais directs Sabine Azéma, Pierre Arditi and André Dussolier.

RUSH HOUR (15): LA and Hong Kong cops join forces on a kidnap case. Routine fare, enlivened by Asian legend Jackie Chan and motormouth comic Chris Tucker.

Maître with the light touch

Gerald Larner pays centenary tribute to Francis Poulenc, the French composer without honour in France

Nearly 50 years ago Francis Poulenc declared that "if people are still interested in my music in 50 years' time it will be for my *Stabat Mater* rather than the *Mouvements perpétuels*". In fact, he is remembered today, on the eve of the centenary of his birth, for both sides of his creative personality, both the fervent Catholic and the naughty boy, for both the Gloria and *Les Biches*, both *Les Dialogues des Carmélites* and *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*. Except, that is, in France, where they would apparently prefer not to remember him at all.

To the British, Poulenc is typically French, a kind of Maurice Chevalier of the opera house or the concert hall. That's why we like him and, the pianist Pascal Rogé says, why the French do not.

Rogé, who probably knows Poulenc's music better than anyone, says that "French people don't like the image of themselves that Poulenc sends to them". Ignoring the serious works, which are not considered as Poulenc, "they see him as superficial while they want to be seen as serious. They want to be Brahms, and they are not made to be that." When Rogé tried to get a Parisian promoter to put on a Poulenc centenary series, he was told: "Forget it. The hall would be half-empty."

So the most extensive Poulenc centenary celebrations will be in this country, beginning with a long sold-out concert in the Wigmore Hall tomorrow. At a safe distance from the riverside promenade at Nogent-sur-Marne where Poulenc imbibed so much popular music — and which, to the cultivated Parisian ear, is no less reverberant with bad taste now that the guinguettes have given way to Disneyland — we can innocently enjoy his tuneful reminiscences of Mistinguett, Chevalier and Charles Trenet. Remembering that, as he said, "from my childhood I have loved, without discrimination, the bal-musette and the suites of Couperin", we can also appreciate his stylistic inconsistencies — the disarming way in which he jostles Mozart with Satie, Bach with Chabrier, Schubert with Piaf, all of them with Stravinsky.

The problem with Poulenc, if there is one, is in reconciling the apparently much more basic split in his personality after 1936. That was when, after the death of a young colleague in a horrific road accident, he turned to the Black Virgin of Rocamadour for reassurance, becoming a composer of religious music but without abandoning his playboy side.

Rogé argues that "he remained the same, except that another side of himself was opened. It didn't split his personality but made his versatility the more astonishing. You must accept him as a whole. If you take away either part, the serious or the non-serious, you destroy him. If one part is erased, you get a pale photocopy of what he really is."

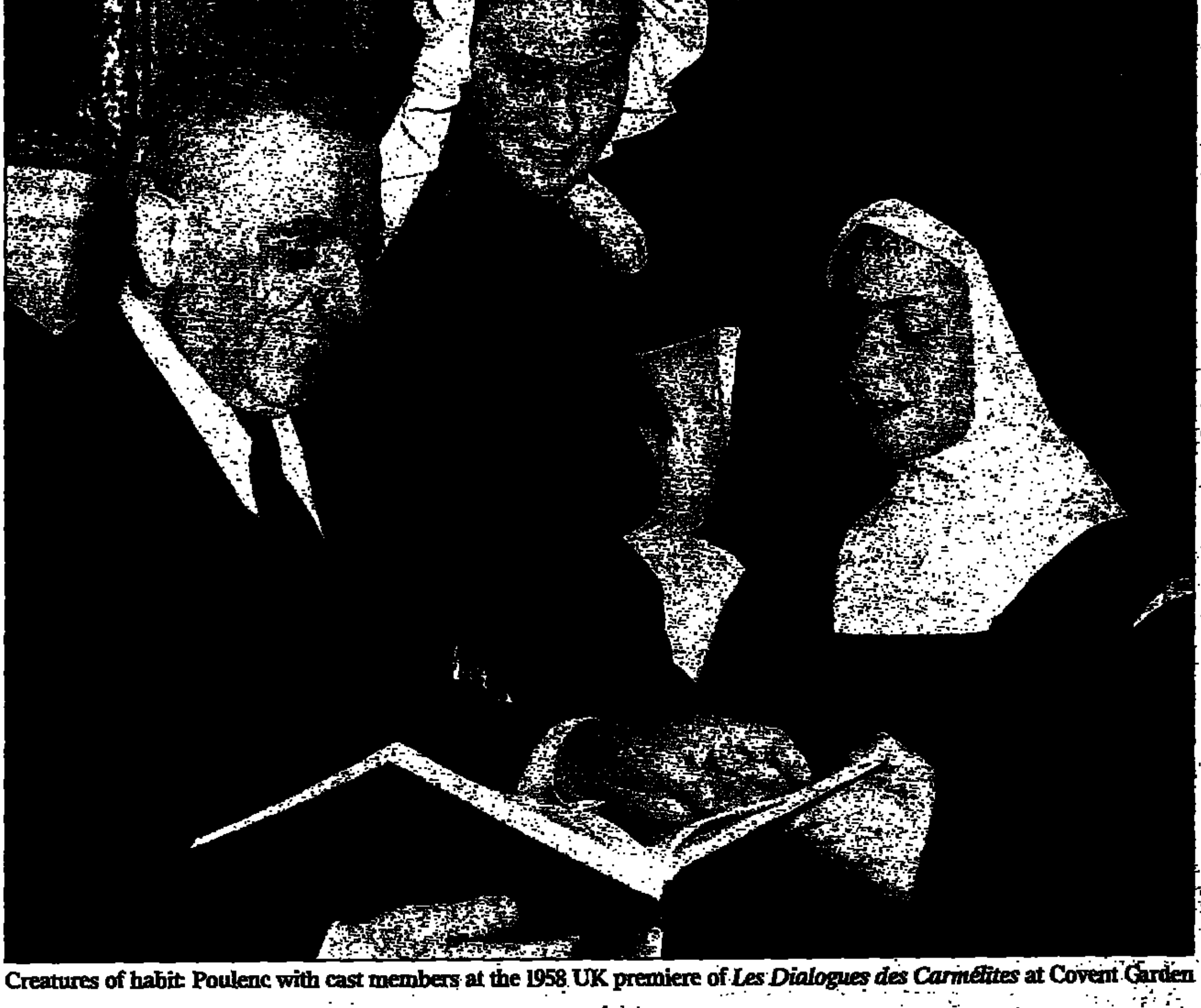
Having recorded not only the complete piano music but also all the songs, Rogé is far more likely to see consistency in him than contradiction. Although, like the composer himself, he regards the songs as the most important area of Poulenc's creativity, Rogé believes that "everything Poulenc wrote has character and personality. It's never dull. And it's very interesting to compare his first piano piece, *Mouvements perpétuels*, with the last ones. Although they are more mature, you can still feel Poulenc's style, humour and melancholy. Everything is there from the beginning."

> 'Both sides of his personality are found in his music'

Rogé's first contact with Poulenc was when, at the age of six, he was turning the pages for his organist mother in a performance of the Concerto for Organ, Timpani and Strings. "It was a revelation. It was more than 25 years before I played a note by Poulenc — at the Paris Conservatoire he didn't exist — but when I did, it all came back to me."

This no doubt explains why another of the alleged problems with Poulenc, which is his reliance on other composers for stylistic models, scarcely seems to exist for Rogé. Poulenc described himself as "madly eclectic" and even wondered whether, if Stravinsky hadn't existed, he would have been a composer at all. But if you fall for the Organ Concerto (shamelessly synthesized out of Stravinsky) before you know real Stravinsky, your attitude will be rather different.

"Poulenc's music is more emotional than Stravinsky's," Rogé says. "It is a matter of personality. You can recognise Poulenc after one bar. It's been said that he used everyone's harmonies to write music like no one else's. That's true. He developed his own language, his own harmony, his own way of treating the melodies."



Creatures of habit: Poulenc with cast members at the 1958 UK premiere of *Les Dialogues des Carmélites* at Covent Garden

There has always been a feeling that Poulenc had it too easy. Born into Parisian high society, indulged by influential women no less than by men of a similar sexual persuasion like Cocteau and Diaghilev, never neglected in his lifetime, he is deemed not to have suffered enough. "He's paying for that now," says Rogé. "It will take another 50 years before all that is forgotten."

But, whatever happens in Paris, we don't have to wait that long. There is an extraordinary wealth of music readily available, its apparent artlessness transcended by its charm and its elegance, its strength of character derived not least from its composer's courage to be himself even if being himself meant being someone else. "After all," as Rogé says, "music is made for enjoyment, to bring happiness to people. I think Poulenc did that better than anybody else."

● *Pascal Rogé plays Poulenc at the Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Jan 31 and Feb 8. Yan-Pascal Tortelier conducts the BBC PO in Poulenc in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester (0161-907 9000). Jan 23. Opera North stages* La Voix humaine *at the Grand, Leeds (0113-222 6222) from Jan 22*

New year, new talents

RECITALS

The Christmas turkey has been picked to the bone and the new year is upon us: it must be PLG time. Sure enough, the Park Lane Group's 43rd season kicked off on Monday with the first batch of gifted young musicians. So distinguished is the roll-call of previous PLG participants that competition is intense. This year 15 sets of artists have been chosen from more than 200 candidates. All recitals are being recorded and Radio 3 will broadcast a selection on January 22.

As always, the players are expected to offer contemporary music, and programming and presentation skills are given due attention. Both the **London City Brass Quintet** and the pianist **Nicholas Hagon** gave challenging programmes with not a turkey in sight, with the possible exception of Justin Connolly's *Cinquepaces*, whose ungrateful sonorities gave the Quintet little chance to shine. All it did was mercilessly to expose ensemble when it was less than perfect.

Stuart Macrae's *Among the Stones* was equally demanding in that respect, but its brooding atmosphere was graphically descriptive of the Orcadian brochs that inspired it, and skilfully realised by the group. Ensemble and solo work were severely tested, occasionally detrimentally, by Richard Rodney Bennett's *Commedia IV*, but there was some fine playing here too, and a good sense of the theatrical inter-relation that characterises the piece. Best of all was Lutoslawski's *Mini Overture*, a gift of a work for an ensemble as accomplished as the London City Brass Quintet.

Nicholas Hagon took no easy options either, but the works of the four composers he tackled were well contrasted and showed different aspects of his musicianship to advantage. Ligeti's Studies are far more than virtuoso vehicles and No 4 in particular, with its syncopations reminiscent of Thelonius Monk, drew a light touch from Hagon.

Julian Anderson's Etude No 3 is an introverted reverie whose mood was nicely caught. The jazzy interspersions of Sofia Gubaidulina's Chaconne peeped idiosyncratically out, though Hagon's finest moment came in the climax to the Icelandic composer Hallgrimsson's *Homage to Mondrian*: a geyser-like eruption sustained with thrilling rhythmic propulsion.

In the early evening recital, the Portuguese percussionist **Pedro Carneiro** framed works for marimba by Joao Pedro Oliveira, Nigel Clarke and Graham Fitkin with the harder-edged *Bongo-O* by Roberto Sierra and Brian Ferneyhough's *Bone Alphabet*, rising well to the demands of each. Oliveira's *Crystal Pyramids*, receiving its UK premiere, effectively explored a range of dynamics and texture, while Clarke's *Tangaroa* (European premiere) evocatively conjured the sounds of the South Seas.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Court of Appeal — Law Report January 6 1999 — Court of Appeal

Lender can take possession with no order

Ropaigealach v Barclays Bank plc

Before Lord Justice Henry, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Clarke

[Judgment December 18]

A mortgage lender was entitled to exercise its common law right to take possession of a mortgaged dwelling house without first obtaining a court order. The protection provided to the borrower by section 36 of the Administration of Justice Act 1970 only applied where the lender had brought an action for possession.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the borrower, Seoirse Fredar Ropaigealach, against the decision of Mr Justice Longmore on July 30, 1997 in the Swansea District Registry of the Queen's Bench Division upholding the striking out by Deputy District Judge Ellis of his action against the defendant, Barclays Bank plc, for determination whether the bank had been entitled to take possession of his house and sell it without having first obtained a court order.

Section 36 of the 1970 Act provides:

"(1) Where the mortgagee ... brings an action in which he claims possession ... the court may ... (a) ... adjourn the proceedings, or (b) on giving judgment, or making an order, for delivery of possession of the mortgaged property ... (i) stay or suspend execution of the judgment or order..."

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Norman Joss for the borrower; Miss Elizabeth Gloster, QC and Mr Michael Sullivan for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the appeal raised a point of some importance as to the effect, if any, of section 36 of the 1970 Act where a lender had taken possession of mortgaged property by peaceable entry and without first obtaining an order of the court.

It had been unnecessary for the judge to decide whether the bank had, in fact, gone into possession of the borrower's house and the court had to approach the appeal on the basis that that question of fact had not been resolved.

Section 36 was expressed to apply where a lender brought an action in which he claimed possession of the mortgaged property.

Where the conditions in subsection (1) were satisfied the court was given powers, by subsection (2), which could fairly be described as procedural; in the sense that they were only capable of being exercised in the context of existing proceedings in which a claim for possession was made.

But, the borrower had said, Parliament could not have intended that the protection against ejectment which the section was plainly intended to give to borrowers in respect of their homes should be capable of being frustrated by a lender who resorted to self-help; that was to say, by a lender who obtained possession by entry without the assistance of the court.

Accordingly, he submitted, the section must be construed in such a way as to make it unlawful for a lender to take possession of a dwelling house except under an order of the court.

It had never become clear in argument how, by any interpretation of the words actually used, that result could be achieved; but that objection had been brushed aside as unduly technical. What mattered, it was said, was that the court should give effect to the purpose for which the section had been plainly enacted.

The genesis of section 36 was not in dispute. In *Birmingham Citizens Permanent Building Society v Caunt* ([1962] Ch 883) it had been held that the necessary consequence of the legal foundation upon which a mortgage was based was that the court had no power to refuse, or to suspend, an order for possession sought by a lender who was otherwise entitled to enter by virtue of his estate.

That decision had put an end to a practice which had been developed by the Chancery masters under which mortgage possession summonses were adjourned to give the borrower an opportunity to pay by instalments.

It was plain that section 36 had been enacted in order to deal with the problem which had arisen following *Caunt;* and which had been the subject of examination and recommendation by the Payne Committee in *Enforcement of Judgment Debts* (1969) (Cmnd 3909).

There was nothing in the circumstances leading to the enactment of section 36 which provided any foundation for a submission that it had been intended to deal with a different problem, not then identified, arising from entry without an order of the court.

Nor was there anything in the language of the section itself which lent support to that submission. If the section had been intended to deal with the problems arising from entry without an order of the court, it was inconceivable that the section would have been enacted in the form in which it was.

The language of the section, as well as the circumstances in which it had been enacted, lent strong support to the view expressed in the Law Commission Working Paper No 99 *Land Mortgages* (1986) at paragraph 3.69:

"(a) The court can exercise its discretion [under section 36] only if the mortgagee applies to it for a possession order: technically, therefore, the mortgagee can deprive the mortgagor of protection by electing to seek some other means of enforcement."

In support of the contention that the court should give what he described as a purposive construction to section 36, the borrower had relied on two decisions on the effect of a comparable provision in section 5 of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act 1920: *Remon v City of London Real Property Co* ([1921] 1 KB 49) and *Cruise v Terrell* ([1922] 1 KB 664).

Those decisions provided no support for the borrower's contention that section 36 of the 1970 Act should be given a construction which, on the language used, it could not bear.

Remon and *Cruise*, properly understood, provided examples of the court construing statutory provisions to give effect to a clearly identifiable purpose by a legitimate process of interpretation.

There was no comparable process of construction by which the words used by the legislature in section 36 could be held to have the effect for which the borrower contended.

The borrower could derive no assistance from *Western Bank Ltd v Schindler* ([1977] Ch 1). It provided a very good illustration of the principles on which the court acted when faced with the problem that a literal construction of the words used by the legislature would give rise to an obvious lacuna or absurdity.

An English judge was not to indulge in judicial legislation. Before he could imply words into an Act, the statutory intention must be plain and the insertion not too big, or too much at variance with the language in fact used by the legislature.

It was impossible to be satisfied that Parliament must have intended, when enacting section 36, that the lender's common law right to take possession by virtue of his estate should only be exercisable with the assistance of the court.

The only conclusion as to Parliamentary intention that the court could properly reach was that which could be derived from the circumstances in which the section was enacted, the statutory context in which it appeared and the language which was used. All pointed in the same direction.

Parliament had been concerned with the problem which had arisen following *Caunt*. It had intended to restore the position to what it had been thought to be before that decision and it did not address its mind to the question whether the borrower required protection against the lender who took possession without the assistance of the court.

It was not irrelevant that, at the date at which the 1970 Act was enacted, the borrower who was in occupation had the protection, subsequently replaced in a different and, perhaps, more limited form by section 6 of the Criminal Law Act 1977, afforded by the Forcible Entry Acts 1381-1623.

It was because it was impossible to be sure that Parliament could not have intended to leave the position as it was, that it could not be appropriate to embark on an investigation whether the words which had been used were capable of some other construction than that which they naturally bore.

Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Clarke gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Phoenix Walters, Cardiff; Eversheds, Cardiff.

Asylum claim makes deportation invalid

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Sanusi

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment December 16]

The making of a deportation order against a person after a decision of intention to deport had been issued but while a claim for asylum by him was outstanding was invalid.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the applicant, Ganiyatu Abake Sanusi, pursuant to leave granted to her by the Court of Appeal on May 22, 1998, to apply for judicial review of the dismissal by Mr Justice Carnwath on May 18 of her application for leave to apply for judicial review against a deportation order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department dated November 22, 1996. The court ordered that the deportation order be quashed.

Miss Sanusi in person; Mr Ian Burnett, QC and Miss Lisa Giovannetti for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the point in issue, shortly stated, was that at the time the deportation order was made the applicant had made an application for asylum, and she was not notified that her application had been refused until some two and a half months after the deportation order was signed.

Her case was that the Home Office's procedure was unlawful because the language of the deportation order required her to leave the United Kingdom, while section 6 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 prevented such a requirement being made in the case of an asylum-seeker between the time the claim to asylum was made and the time when the secretary of state gave notice of the decision on the claim.

It was commonplace in immigration law that a deportation order came into force as soon as it was signed. The subject of the order was required to leave, and even if he knew nothing about the order, removal directions might be set and he might be detained simply because the order was in force: see section 5 of and Schedule 3 to the Immigration Act 1971.

The deportation order had to be distinguished from the decision to make a deportation order: see sections 15(2) and 18(1) of the 1971 Act and *R v Governor of Wolds Prison, Ex parte Samateh* (*The Times* April 17, 1998).

Mr Burnett contended, inter alia, that the words "required to leave" in section 6 of the 1993 Act had a restricted meaning to the effect that, although for all other purposes a person was required to leave the country as soon as the secretary of state signed a deportation order, in the present context the applicant was not so required until the deportation order was served.

In his Lordship's view, the technique adopted by the draftsman of the 1993 Act placed an embargo, during the period between the making of an asylum claim and the notice of a decision on the claim being given to the claimant, not only on removal from the United Kingdom but also on any requirement to leave.

There was no ambiguity in the words in section 6 in the context of modern immigration legislation. The 1971 and 1993 Acts were so closely linked that it would not be proper to construe them in such a way that the same words bore one meaning in one Act and another meaning in the other.

By section 5(1) of the 1971 Act a deportation order was quite unambiguously expressed, and as soon as it was in force it invalidated any prior grant of leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

The applicant might win a Pyrrhic victory, since it was the case that even if the original deportation order was quashed the secretary of state could make another such order immediately without any prior formalities or right of appeal.

The court would assume, however, that he would not do so without first giving anxious and careful consideration of the circumstances of her case: she was now nearly 21, had been in the country since she arrived soon after her thirteenth birthday, had done well in her studies and been no burden on the state.

Both her parents were dead and her elder sister with whom she lived had a home here. She had now been in detention for six months as a consequence of the making of an invalid deportation order.

Those were matters which the secretary of state would take into account when he reconsidered his decision in the case. They were not matters for the court.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Evans agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Serving interrogatories before discovery complete

Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile v Metallgesellschaft AG Ltd and Others

Before Judge Colyer, QC

[Judgment November 23]

There was no absolute rule precluding the service of interrogatories before the completion of discovery and/or the exchange of witness statements.

Interrogatories could be served where they were necessary for disposing fairly of the cause or matter or for saving costs. An interrogatory was necessary if, unless it was served, it would be impossible to attempt a proper litigious purpose, which could include the preparation of an application for summary judgment under Order 14, provided the interrogatories themselves were not objectionable as a fishing expedition.

Judge Colyer, QC, sitting as an additional Chancery Division judge, so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile, from the order of Deputy Master Mark requiring the withdrawal of certain interrogatories served by the plaintiff on the third defendant, Mr Wolfgang Becker, on the ground that the service of interrogatories prior to the completion of discovery and/or the exchange of witness statements was premature.

Mr Ian Geering, QC and Mr Anthony Robinson for the plaintiff; Mr Kenneth MacLean for Metallgesellschaft AG and Metallgesellschaft Ltd; Mr David Donaldson, QC and Mr Paul Goulding for Mr Becker.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiff, a company wholly owned by the Chilean government which produced and traded in copper, alleged that the three defendants conspired to pay a bribe of $1.5 million to the plaintiff's futures manager out of the plaintiff's own funds by inflating the premium paid to the second defendant, the UK subsidiary of the first defendant, by that amount and cooperating in the diversion of that sum to the futures manager's personal bank account in the Cayman Islands.

The essential question on this appeal was whether the interrogatories served on Mr Becker, a metals trader employed by a subsidiary of the first defendant and the first defendant's agent in its dealings with the plaintiff, were necessary either for disposing fairly of the matter or for saving costs.

While the statement of claim was served over two years ago, discovery was still in its early stages and no date had been set for the exchange of witness statements.

Mr Geering contended that costs could be saved and the eventual trial shortened, if not avoided altogether, by interrogating Mr Becker as to the salient facts now.

Relying on *Attorney-General v Gaskill* ((1881-2) 20 Ch 519), he pointed out that as Order 38, rule 2A of the Rules of the Supreme Court explicitly recognised that interrogatories could affect whether and to what extent witness statements were necessary, a fortiori, Order 38, rule 2 recognised that, albeit in rare cases, interrogatories might properly be served prior to the exchange of witness statements.

The interrogatories in the present case were not oppressive. The questions, although numerous (over 150 in all), broke down into three distinct series, and in many instances were capable of short *and immediate answers*.

It was at least reasonably possible that the answers to the interrogatories might shorten or even dispense with a full trial, or at least make some of the further discovery unnecessary.

If the answer was: "I do not know, I was not there and did not authorise such a step", then that could very easily be deposed.

The privilege against self-incrimination meant that the defendant could decline to give a substantial answer, not that the interrogatories could not be put: see *Spokes v The Grosvenor and West End Railway Terminus Hotel Company Ltd* ([1897] 2 QB 124).

His Lordship rejected the submissions of Mr Donaldson, based on *Hall v Sevalco Ltd* ([1996] PIQR 344), that the openly declared objective of the plaintiff in the present application, namely to prepare for and mount an application for summary judgment, could not constitute a clear litigious purpose necessitating the interrogation of Mr Becker to obtain information or admissions which were likely to be contained in the pleadings, discoverable documents and/or a witness statements.

If interrogatories were legitimate in preparation for trial there was no reason why they could not be equally legitimate in preparation for an application for summary judgment, provided that the case had the makings of an Order 14 case and was not objectionable *as a fishing expedition*. The present case did have sufficient Order 14 potential.

Mr Donaldson contended that, in the modern procedural context, the interrogatories were premature: see *Det Danske Hedelskabet v KDM International Ltd* ([1994] 2 Ll Rep 534); *Hall v Sevalco Ltd* and *UCB Bank plc v Halifax Ltd* (unreported, CA, June 10, 1997).

However, the observations of Mr Justice Colman in *Det Danske Hedelskabet*, approved by the Court of Appeal in *Hall v Sevalco* notwithstanding, Order 26, rule 1 did not say: "After discovery and the exchange of witness statements a party may serve interrogatories...". It would be wrong to read those words into the rules. Each case had to be considered on its own facts by reference to the Order 26, rule 1(1) criteria of necessity.

"Necessary" was an ordinary English word with a range of meanings. In the instant context it could not mean "absolute necessity", but had to mean a strong or compelling reason, or something which would prevent the desired result, that is, the fair disposal of the case or the saving of costs, if it was not done.

To be pedantically accurate, an interrogatory was necessary if, unless it was served, it would be impossible to attempt a proper litigious purpose.

"Proper litigious purpose" meant not just one that was defined and easily ascertainable but *also one which was appropriate*.

An application under Order 14 would rarely constitute such a clear and proper litigious purpose, although in the somewhat unusual scenario of the present case the interrogatories in question satisfied those criteria.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Slaughter & May; Farrer & Co.

Certifying freezing order as a judgment

Normaco and Another v Lundman and Others

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment December 17]

An inter partes pre-judgment Mareva order, freezing one of the party's assets, was a judgment which the court had jurisdiction to certify for enforcement and recognition in a foreign jurisdiction.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in *the Chancery Division when making* an order on the application of the plaintiffs pursuant to Order 71, rule 36 of the Rules of the Supreme Court certifying the order dated February 17, 1998 made in the action.

Mr Ian Geering, QC and Mr Stephen Phillips for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the application was made for the enforcement and recognition in Switzerland of a pre-judgment Mareva order.

Order 71, rule 36 provided that the application "must be made ex parte". It was useful to explain the application of that rule to Mareva orders.

The relevant provisions required the term "judgment" to be interpreted in accordance with section 50 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 and article 25 in each of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and set out in Schedules 1 and 3C to the 1982 Act.

The words of those provisions were wide enough to include a Mareva order. The position was summarised in *Dicey & Morris on Conflict of Laws* (12th edition (1993) p531).

In *Babanaft International Co SA v Bassatne* ([1990] 1 Ch 13, 31) Lord Justice Kerr set out the effect of those provisions which made it clear that a Mareva order might be certified in principle provided that it was inter-partes or where the defendant had had an opportunity to *resist the plaintiff's application*. The latter phrase was solely concerned with certifying the judgment.

His Lordship referred to *The Atlantic Emperor No 2* ([1992] 1 Lloyd's Rep 624) and said that it was clear that he had jurisdiction to certify the judgment.

Solicitors: Palmer Cowen.

No legal privilege for iniquity

Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd v Saud Reyadh Abdulla S. Naser Al Alawi and Others

Before Mr Justice Rix

[Judgment December 3]

Evidence obtained through criminal or fraudulent conduct by private investigators employed by solicitors for use in and relevant to issues in litigation was discoverable and not protected by legal professional privilege.

Mr Justice Rix so held in the Queen's Bench Division, in allowing discovery under Order 24, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of reports and documents relating to investigations into the financial affairs of Mr Al Alawi.

Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd (Dubal) sued Mr Al Alawi, among others, in respect of his conduct as its sales manager between 1984 and 1995. Mr Al Alawi sought discharge of a Mareva [asset-freezing] injunction imposed together with an Anton Piller [search and seize] order on July 28, 1998, on the ground, inter alia, that in investigating his finances and assets, Dubal had employed agents, Page Associates, a firm of private investigators who had acted in contravention of the Data Protection Act 1984 or Swiss banking laws.

It was accepted by Dubal that such documents were relevant and discoverable but it was alleged that legal professional privilege attached to them. *It was accepted by* Mr Al Alawi that prima facie such privilege would attach to them, but for the fact that they were part of or relevant to criminal or fraudulent acts or purposes, or acts or purposes which were otherwise iniquitous.

The court made the following orders by consent and upon the giving of certain undertakings and cross-undertakings: (i) Mr Al Alawi was given unconditional leave to defend on the first claim; (ii) Dubal withdrew the second and third claims; (iii) the Mareva and Anton Piller orders were discharged.

Mr Mark Pelling for Dubal; Mr Clive Freedman, QC and Mr Alan Gourgey for Mr Al Alawi.

MR JUSTICE RIX said that it had to be recognised that there was a clash of principle and public interest. There was strong public interest in legal professional privilege. There was also the public interest, no less strong, in combating crime or fraud and in protecting the victims or potential victims of it.

There was also the public interest, reflected in *Kuruma v The Queen* ([1955] AC 197, 205), in trying cases on relevant evidence in the attempt to arrive at a true and just determination at trial.

His Lordship acknowledged that the problem of data protection was a modern one, reflected by the relatively recent date of the 1984 Act and the fact that the ramifications of that legislation were only still more recently becoming clearer: see the advice issued by the Bar Council in July 1997 "The Data Protection Act 1984 and the Bar" and *Gee on Mareva Injunctions and Anton Piller Relief* (4th edition (1988) 121).

It seemed to his Lordship that if investigative agents employed by solicitors for the purpose of litigation were permitted to breach the provisions of such statutes or to indulge in fraud or impersonation without any consequence at all for the conduct of litigation, then the courts would be going too far to sanction such conduct.

However, there was the sanction of any prosecutions or civil suits, and those must always remain the primary sanction for any breach of the criminal or civil law.

But it seemed to his Lordship that criminal or fraudulent conduct for the purposes of acquiring evidence in or for litigation could not properly escape the consequence that any documents generated by or reporting on such conduct and which were relevant to the issues in the case were discoverable and fell outside the legitimate area of legal professional privilege.

In his Lordship's judgment, the *Kuruma* principle was consistent with that view rather than against it. That principle was concerned with vindicating the truth with the aid of relevant evidence rather than excluding such evidence on the ground that it had been improperly come by. That principle could not be said to require privilege even where crime or fraud had been committed to obtain information.

Ultimately it seemed to his Lordship that criminal or fraudulent conduct undertaken for the purposes of litigation fell on the same side of the line as advising on or setting up criminal or fraudulent transactions yet to be undertaken, as distinct from the entirely legitimate professional business of advising and assisting clients on their past conduct, however iniquitous.

The Queen v Cox ((1884) 14 QBD 153, 167) supported that conclusion. His Lordship was therefore of the opinion that the documents sought were in principle within the established exception.

As to the extent of disclosure required in such a case, that could always raise difficult questions, but the problem was not a new one. It had to be solved on a case-by-case basis, and even on a document-by-document basis, in accordance with principles such as those laid down in *Bank of Nova Scotia v Hellenic Mutual War Risks Association Ltd* ([1992] 2 Lloyd's Rep 540); *G. E. Capital Corporate Finance Group Ltd v Bankers Trust Co* ([1995] 1 WLR 172) and *Hellenic Mutual War Risks Association Ltd v Harrison* ([1997] 1 Lloyd's Rep 160).

Solicitors: Warner Cranston; Philippsohn Crawfords Berwald.

Order ensures survival of partnership

In re H. S. Smith and Sons

Before Mr Justice Park

[Judgment December 7]

A partnership was unable to pay its debts, so as to qualify it for the discretionary making of an administration order under section 8(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, as restated in Schedule 2 to the Insolvent Partnerships Order (SI 1994 No 2421), notwithstanding that the value of the assets of one of its partners exceeds its liabilities.

Mr Justice Park so held in the Chancery Division, in making an administration order under section 8(1) in respect of a family farming partnership comprising Harry Seabrook Smith, Frances Smith and their son, Ivan Smith, which was tenant of a farm of which Harry Smith was the freeholder.

Mr Glen Davis for the partnership; no creditor appeared or was represented.

MR JUSTICE PARK said that the restated section 8(1) provided that before the court could make an administration order in respect of an insolvent partnership:

1 It had to be satisfied that the partnership was unable, as distinct from likely to become unable, the test in respect of companies, or was deemed to be unable to pay its debts as they fell due, or if the value of its assets was less than the amount of its liabilities: see section 224(1)(d) and (2) of the 1986 Act.

2 It had to consider that the making of an order would be likely to achieve one or more of three purposes:

(i) the survival of the undertaking or part of it as a going concern;

(ii) the approval of a voluntary arrangement under Part I of the 1986 Act;

(iii) a more advantageous realisation of the partnership's property than would be effected on a winding-up.

Of critical importance, and a major difference from insolvency of a company, was the personal liability of each of the partners for the partnership's debts; in particular Mr Harry Smith, having contracted to sell part of the land and agreed, subject to contract, to sell a cottage, could comfortably pay off those debts.

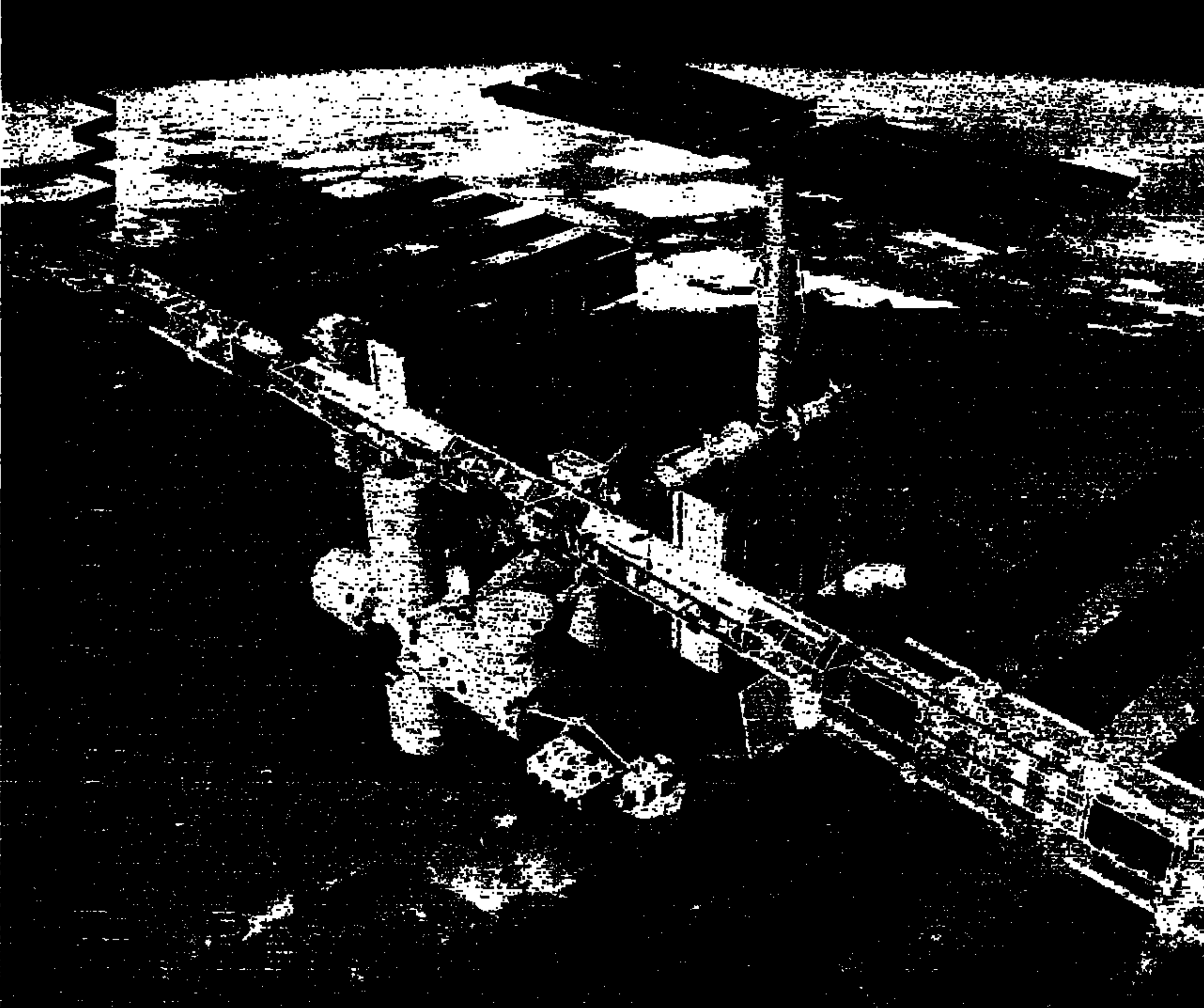
Did that fact preclude satisfaction of the first condition above?

His Lordship thought not. The partnership itself was unable to pay its debts and the value of its assets was less than that of its liabilities, notwithstanding that its creditors had full recourse against Mr Harry Smith.

The petition relied on an administration order being likely to achieve all the purposes set out in section 8(3), the most important being that in section 8(3)(a): "... the survival of the undertaking of the partnership as a going concern".

The making of an administration order would hold off the creditors from petitioning to wind up the partnership and give Mr Harry Smith time to recapitalise the partnership, in which case its business would survive as a going concern. It was plainly desirable that his Lordship should exercise his discretion in favour of making an administration order.

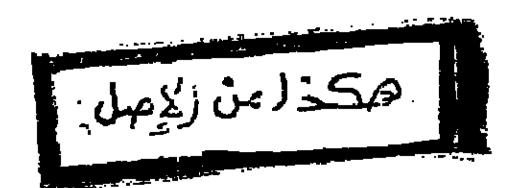
Solicitors: Matthew Arnold & Baldwin, Watford.

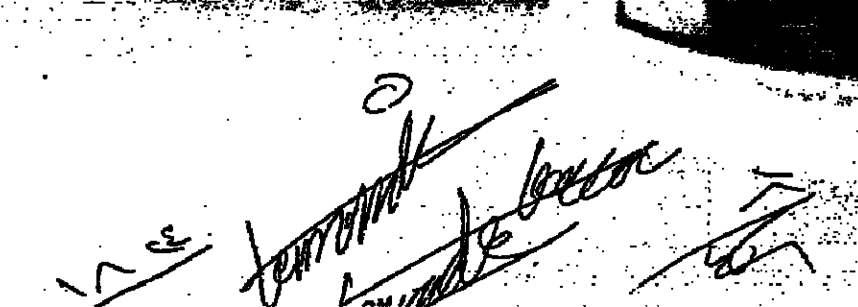


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هكذا من الاصل

Rachel Kelly reports on the proposal for the Land Registry that will end the property price guessing game

Your biggest investment is no longer a secret

Dinner parties will never be the same again. Henceforth, we may be able to know the price that sellers originally paid for their houses and the putative profit that they could enjoy.

Such juicy figures and an intimate knowledge of our neighbour's bank balance will fuel our national obsession with house prices and the joys of making more money by watching the wallpaper than by going out to work.

Ministers are expected to announce shortly that henceforth the Land Registry, the government body that records property transactions, will soon include the price paid for a property alongside details of its registered title, mortgage and conveyancing.

Potential buyers could apply for a copy of the title, or if they have online access via the Land Registry direct access service, view the entry from a computer.

The reforms are part of Labour's manifesto commitment to freedom of information, and have been the subject of discussion since 1988 in the run-up to the opening of the Land Registry to the public in 1990.

They are also part of the Government's wider aim to reform the housebuying process, which is currently the subject of a consultation paper at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Providing such information could be included in a logbook or sellers' pack to be assembled by sellers before putting a property on the market.

Should the reform be implemented, England and Wales will mirror the Scottish system where property prices have been a matter of public record since 1617.

It will be a return to the system used in England until 1976 when prices were included on the Land Registry, but since the Registry was not then open to the public, the prices could be disclosed only by permission of the owner.

Then the system was abused by solicitors, who often erased the previous selling price. The lawyers argued that if buyers could see how hugely the house price had risen, they might try to renegotiate.

Others argue that the price paid in a property transaction is essentially a private affair and is not in the public domain, and thus should not be the Government's to disclose. Certainly, the number of agents whose clients are obsessed with confidentiality clauses bears witness to the desire for secrecy about what is for many their biggest financial transaction.

> 'Anything that demystifies the housebuying process is a good thing. It will make valuation easier'

Many lawyers still oppose the reforms, and have been lobbying the Lord Chancellor's Department to make their views known. So do some agents, such as David Parry, from Cluttons Daniel Smith in Maidstone. "Such an idea is an invasion of privacy," he says. "Property values can rise or fall in very short periods of time. It may paint the wrong picture."

But most estate agents and surveyors have broadly welcomed the move and they are right to do so. The changes will see an end to inflated claims by irresponsible agents about how much a house is worth, only to win the commission for the sale.

Ultimately, says Guy Foster from Friend & Falcke, the London estate agents, the reforms will steady the housing market and restrain prices from galloping away from reality in an inflationary boom, which economists now agree has damaging effects on the wider economy.

More information in general leads to more efficiency and such figures would be useful in terms of tracking the reality of what is happening to actual prices, rather than relying on the research of commercial organisations such as the Halifax and the Nationwide Building Society. It would help, too, in fraud cases.

"This should make the property market more efficient," says a spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which has campaigned for change.

"Such information is already freely available in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and many European countries.

"The experience of openness in all of these countries is that personal and commercial privacy has not been compromised. Nor has the information been misused."

Willie Gething, from the buyers' agents Property Vision, says: "Anything that demystifies the housebuying process is a good thing. It will make valuations easier and will leave less room for economic guessing." Indeed, many switched-on buyers already try to find out as much about other sales in the area or the street in which they are interested, and such comparable sales are an essential element of the services provided by buying agents who do their best to assess values accurately.

But property experts also caution that the figures need to be used with care. Guy Foster notes that if a buyer can call up the Land Registry and find out all the house prices within the same street, this could complicate negotiations.

He says: "The Land Registry will not record the condition of a property, the size of rooms or its internal decorations."

Richard Lambert from the British Property Federation echoes concerns that the information could be misleading. Finer details of deals such as rent-free periods or methods of payment such as share swaps do not have to be included.

To have to answer "yes" or "no" to the proposals is to oversimplify the issue, Mr Lambert argues. Rather he wishes to see the proposal, which does have merit, fine-tuned.

Willie Gething points to other complications. In the country, many homes are registered in two parts: for example a rectory might be registered separately from some land or a cottage. Government figures could be misleading.

He says: "They may read that there have been no property sales of more than £2 million in Wiltshire in the past year, whereas we will know of maybe three or four sales. The reason is that the sales included land or outbuildings which were recorded separately from the main house."

Mr Gething notes, too, that there could be complications with leasehold extensions which mean that prices are not necessarily comparable.

He says: "A house sold with a 50-year lease a few years ago may now be for sale with an extended 75-year lease."

The message is that if prices are published, such figures need to be treated with caution.

The approach may not add to the gaiety of dinner parties, but should add to the efficiency of the more prosaic business of valuations.

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



Those were the days: flashback to the time when homes could be bought for a few thousand pounds

SMART MOVES

☐ CHRIS EVANS, the owner of Virgin Radio, has bought a flat in Wilton Crescent, SW1. The ground floor and basement flat was sold on a short lease for about £700,000.

☐ THE home of Sir Alan Glyn, the late Conservative MP who was also a soldier, barrister, doctor and expert on international affairs, is being sold by Farley and Co for £3 million. Seventeen Cadogan Place, SW1, consists of a main house and mews house, both in need of refurbishment. According to Dickens in *Nicholas Nickleby*, Cadogan Place was the connecting link "between the aristocratic pavements of Belgrave Square and the barbarism of Chelsea".

☐ FUNTINGS, in Kirdford, West Sussex, a 17th-century Grade II listed house, is for sale. The house has five bedrooms and lies in 130 acres of pasture. Among those who have rented the house are Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit. Browns' Cranleigh office is selling the house for £2 million.

☐ ALAN LEVY, the founder of the London Toy Museum and New Cavendish Books, is renting his flat in Stanley Gardens, SW11. The flat is packed with model trains, art, books and all kinds of gadgetry. The flat is for rent through Chards' Campden Hill Road office for £1,350 a week.

☐ THE Grade II listed Georgian house of Angela Billingham, Labour MEP for Northamptonshire and Blaby, is for sale. The Ivy House, Adderbury, Oxfordshire, has five bedrooms and a cottage garden and is for sale through Lane Fox for £355,000.

☐ ALAN CLARK'S former home at Town Farm House in Bratton Clovelly, Devon, where he lived before becoming an MP, has been auctioned for £167,000 through Knight Frank.

BEN WAKEHAM

Co-ownership scheme set to fail the poor

A plan to help low-paid buyers to find cheaper homes may backfire, says Senay Boztas

In April, the Government will change a housebuying scheme that has helped 50,000 people on to the first rung of the property ladder.

Those who qualify for help now, particularly Londoners and those from ethnic minorities, may soon be stuck in rented homes that are unsuitable.

The do-it-yourself shared ownership scheme (DIYSO), a homebuying incentive introduced by the Conservatives, also helps nurses and teachers whose low salaries make them unable to buy on the open market.

It allows a buyer to pay between 25 and 75 per cent of a new home, with a subsidised rent on the rest. If, for example, you took out a mortgage for 50 per cent of the property's value, the lower rent on the rest could in effect make the property 30 per cent cheaper than with a 100 per cent mortgage.

But last summer the Government said DIYSO would be scrapped this year in favour of a new scheme called Homebuy, where buyers would need to pay at least 75 per cent of the cost.

It is effectively an interest-free loan of 25 per cent. Steve Coleman, of the Notting Hill Home Ownership Trust, is in favour, but, he believes, it only offers an improved deal to people who are better-off.

Fifty-seven per cent of people who used DIYSO with Notting Hill Home Ownership Trust would not be able to afford Homebuy. Housing associations campaigned for the Government to change its mind and in November, Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, said she would keep DIYSO. But from April it will be financed by local councils rather than the Housing Corporation.

There is no extra money going to the councils and campaigners are worried that next year the scheme, in practice, will be cut, especially in the capital.

Sue Ellenby, the head of the National Housing Federation in London, says: "We were concerned about DIYSO being abolished as it allows people on lower incomes to own homes. The Homebuy scheme is not as accessible, particularly for those in London and the South East where property prices are high.

"Soon local authorities funding DIYSO will be pushed to make difficult decisions with limited funds. At the end of the day we are still arguing about a lack of resources to meet the range and level of need for affordable houses."

Realistically, DIYSO could be extinct in five months and London would be hardest hit.

Steve Nun, of Tower Housing Association, deals with boroughs in southeast London. "Southwark, Bromley and Greenwich are unlikely to earmark much money for DIYSO," he says. "They have other things they would rather spend this money on. As a result, some people will be stuck in the housing trap."

Last year his association helped 250 people to get housed under the old government scheme or find accommodation in shared home ownership flats. In the case of apartments, a housing association buys or renovates a complex. Then prospective purchasers usually pay for half of their property and rent the rest. They can gradually buy the whole home, but unlike DIYSO, they cannot make their own choice of homes on the open market.

But even the shared home ownership schemes are not always suitable. In Buckinghamshire, for example, many local people cannot afford to buy property in expensive brownfield developments and new shared home ownership blocks cannot be built on green belt land.

Many projects are overburdened. Last year in London, for every person who found a place, nine were unsuccessful. There were more than 55,000 inquiries for 5,000 properties. Many waiting lists are years long.

Fourteen of the 20 most deprived local authority areas are in the capital. At the same time more than 120,000 households are in severe housing need because of dangers in their current homes, according to a London Pride Partnership survey.

Nick Ronald, the chairman of the London Home Ownership group, says a cake that is already small will have to be even more thinly sliced. Councils will have to split funding between three sorts of housing relief — DIYSO, shared ownership and the new Homebuy scheme. "The local authorities are also under pressure to spend their money on urban regeneration and creating sustainable communities," he says. "In West London, where my Bush Housing Association works, I do not think boroughs will fund DIYSO.

"There is going to be a problem here. Since some areas are so expensive, low incomes for London can range from £12,000 to £25,000. There will be people caught in low quality housing and unable to get out."

He says ethnic minorities may be hit particularly hard. Last year these families accounted for 40 per cent of DIYSO users.

Councils may have more cash for housing generally from Labour's capital receipts initiative, letting them use money from the sale of council houses during the Eighties, but this is also used for repairing and building more social housing.

Duncan Bowie, of the London Housing Corporation, says: "For the first time we are leaving it up to councils to decide where to spend their money. Some may well back more renting instead of DIYSO. Early indications suggest fewer councils will use the Homebuyer scheme. We are in discussions now to find out."

The future of the scheme is uncertain. It may still be available next year in boroughs such as South Buckinghamshire, but many are worried it will disappear. Penny Sychrava, of the Notting Hill Home Ownership Trust, believes it will be obsolete within two years.

This year's funds are going fast. Even people racing to buy under DIYSO now may be disappointed. Both Tower Housing and Bush associations have stopped advertising because their money has already run out.

☐ For details contact the Shared Ownership Advice Line on 0345 585757.

DAVID BERMAN/NHHO



The DIYSO scheme provided a passport to "desirable" and expensive Pimlico for Marc Lewis

A FOOT ON THE LADDER

MARC LEWIS, a council worker, spent four years lodging with friends before DIYSO helped him to begin buying a home of his own.

The social policy research officer from the London Borough of Barnet earns just over £20,000 a year. But that was not enough for Inner London property. Thanks to the DIYSO scheme, he now lives in Pimlico, southwest London, just behind the Tate Gallery.

Mr Lewis, 43, says: "I wanted to live in Pimlico where I was staying with friends. I liked the area, but it is considered 'desirable' — so buying and renting are prohibitively expensive."

He moved into an £85,000 one-bedroom flat in late April, after gaining approval from his housing trust in February.

To buy his flat in the Millbank Estate he took out a mortgage with monthly payments of £460 to buy 60 per cent outright.

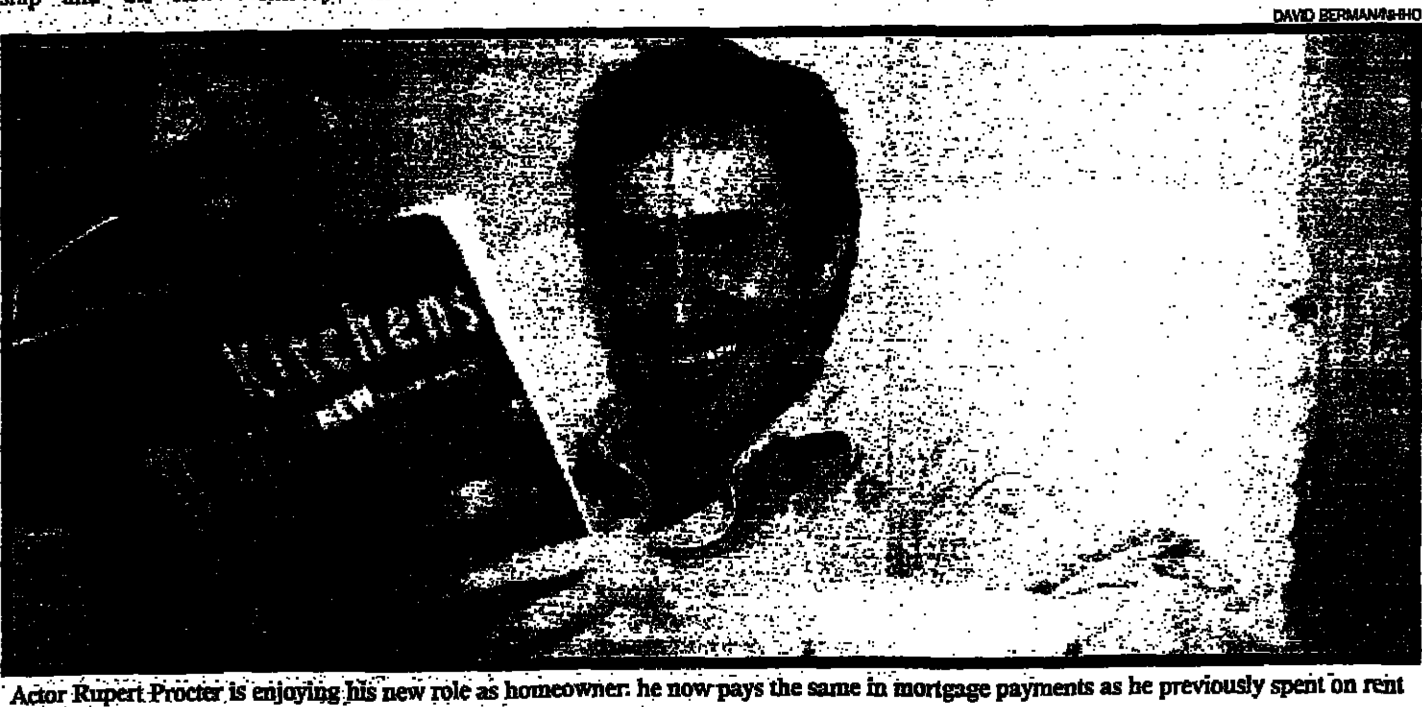
Now he pays £108 a month in rent to the Notting Hill Home Ownership Trust and believes this is cheaper than private renting — although his monthly spend has doubled since his days of sharing.

He says: "I was ecstatic when I moved into an area that is safe and pleasant. It has everything. London's attractions are within half an hour's walk. The scheme gets people on to the housing ladder and I would recommend it."

He says DIYSO may not be right for people with special needs or those who do not want a mortgage. He also warns of additional costs — surveyor's and legal fees were higher than he had expected.

"I had the costs budgeted virtually to the penny, but it still cost me more. For someone more financially strapped it could have been disastrous."

DAVID BERMAN/NHHO



Actor Rupert Procter is enjoying his new role as homeowner: he now pays the same in mortgage payments as he previously spent on rent

A SENSE OF STABILITY

Rupert Procter, a 36-year-old actor, feels very lucky to have benefited from DIYSO. He saw homelessness looming when his sister and her husband — with whom he lodged — wanted to start a family. He tried to move from their Wandsworth home but could not get a mortgage.

"Acting is notoriously unstable," he says. "You can have no work for two months and then a well-paid television job. I was on £16,000 a year and had saved £6,000, but Barclays was still suspicious."

He had nearly given up hope of buying a £69,000 two-bedroom cottage in Tooting when a fellow actor told him about the Notting Hill Home Ownership Trust scheme.

Spending all his savings on a mortgage down-payment with the Nationwide Building Society and solicitor's fees, Mr Procter got an "unbelievable deal" from the association, which lent him the remaining £34,500, to be paid back at a rate of £120 a month.

With monthly mortgage repayments of £160, he is paying the same as he spent on rent — but now he has a home of his own.

"Getting my own home has been a change for the better without a doubt. It has made my life more complete," he says.

Now, with roles in television programmes, including *Peak Practice*, and earnings of £25,000, he is considering "staircasing": gradually buying a bigger share in the cottage eventually to own it outright.

DIYSO was the starting point, and Mr Procter feels that even contemplating abolishing the scheme is disgusting. He believes it is a way for people to make their lives better.

TENNIS

Safin's leap forward put on hold

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DOHA, QATAR

FOR a man who hates to travel, Marat Safin has come a long way, but unfortunately it does not seem to be doing him much good. Hailing from Moscow by way of Valencia — he has lived there for five years, training with the vast contingent of young Spanish hopefuls — he now tours the world trying to live down his reputation as the next big thing waiting to happen in tennis.

Tennis will have to wait a little longer, as yesterday he lost to Hicham Arazi in the first round of the Qatar Mobil Open.

Since Safin defeated Andre Agassi and Gustavo Kuerten at the French Open last year, announcing his arrival in the big time, his life has changed. Now there is fame, fortune and, worst of all, expectation to deal with, and it is all proving a little too much. His Spanish colleagues all talk warmly of Safin: he is a lovely chap, they say, one of the boys, lots of talent, a thoroughly decent sort. But ask how far he can go and the Spaniards shrug their shoulders. Well, he is Russian, so who knows?

Results 38

And therein lies the problem. When Safin is happy he is stunning, but he can slump from happy to glum in the twinkling of an eye and then everything starts to go horribly wrong.

Safin is 6ft 4in of bludgeoning groundstrokes wrapped in voluminous shorts, while Arazi is a diminutive 5ft 9in of improvisation and guile — but they are perfectly matched.

The Moroccan, too, is a staggeringly gifted player plagued by an unerring habit of throwing away the most promising of leads should the mood take him. One of the tour's nicer personalities, his tennis is not helped by the pursuit of his two favourite hobbies: girls and nightclubs.

Yesterday was a bad day for both men. Each was trying to be more inconsistent than the other and, against a fellow master of the craft, that required some thought. Safin, as is his wont, relied on brute force, walloping his first service and trying to knock holes in the court off both flanks.

Unfortunately, the power was undermined by the lack of direction and, as he sprayed the ball wide and long, he just about managed to be more consistently inconsistent than Arazi and go out 1-6, 6-3, 7-6.

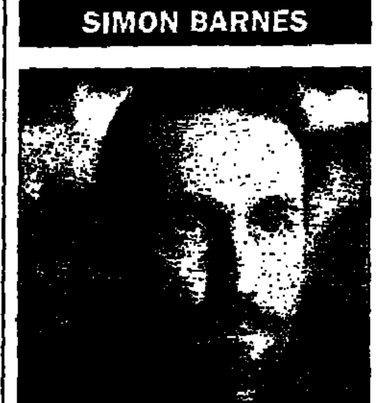
It was a tough day for the Russians. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No 3 seed, was almost undone by the little-known Stephane Huet, a qualifier from France, but saved the day, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. Like Safin, Kafelnikov does a good line in glum, and yesterday he had every cause to be less than happy. He played some truly appalling tennis for the first hour before digging in for an untidy scrap. With more than 200 ranking places separating them, Huet eventually realised his position in the pecking order and gave way.

The weight of the world seems to sit heavily on Kafelnikov's shoulders. He regards his bulging bank balance as no more than another thing to worry about, and while fatherhood has calmed him down — this time last year he was nursing a knee injury after a skiing accident and singed eyebrows after some high jinks with a firework — it has done little to lift his spirits.

He now faces the hugely jolly Arazi in the next round, a fact that is unlikely to bring a smile to his face.

How fleeting the taste of glory

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

The best bit of sport we have had this entire year was Darren Gough's hat-trick: the following 51 weeks will have to go some if they are to produce something as good as that. It had sporting excellence, with three quite extraordinarily good balls. It also had a splendidly likeable athlete doing the doing.

What is still more, the hat-trick offered that most wondrously satisfying thing, a feeling of someone getting his own back on life. On this tour, it seemed that a convention had been established whereby no Englishman ever caught a catch off Gough's bowling. The hat-trick was the reward for that especially admirable kind of bloody-minded courage, the kind that comes to the fore in the face of quite terrible luck, awful disappointment and the failure of just about every one of your team-mates to back you up consistently.

It was great stuff, part of two splendidly satisfying Test matches, games made the more memorable for the three hugely depressing England performances that preceded them. But I was reminded of another hat-trick, not so long ago: one that spelt out quite wonderful hopes at the time. And which all ended in tears, some of them shed during this particular Test series.

Dominic Cork performed that most glorious and melodramatic of cricketing feats against West Indies in 1995. It followed his sensational entry into Test cricket two matches earlier: seven wickets in an innings, when he was at the heart of the first England victory of over West Indies at Lord's since 1957. A man, it seemed, made for the making of cricket history.

Then came the match in which he made an unbeaten 56 and then did the hat-trick. Wonderful stuff. And — well, Cork has never been the same since. There is, sometimes, something about the most extraordinarily high achievement that seems to knock the stuffing out of a person.



DAVID GRAY

Gough celebrates the greatest moment of his career in the Sydney Test

Cork has been a sad figure on this tour, useful only for getting up Australian noses. His most memorable contribution was to provoke the biggest grin of the series, from Glenn McGrath after he had succeeded in hitting Cork with a bouncer.

Still on the winter's cricket, we have the figure of Brian Lara, who has never recovered from the brief eyeblink of cricketing history in which he was the greatest player that ever lifted a bat. After his Test match 375 for West Indies against England, he scored 501 for Warwickshire, and for a brief few weeks scored a hundred just about every time he went out to bat.

He has been something of a disaster ever since. He has hastened the decline of West Indian cricket, disrupted the present squad and led the team to disaster in South Africa. It is not that he has never matched his own highest achievements, for no one could. The fact is that performing them destroyed something in him — good sense, humility, ambition, balance, proportion, whatever. These days Lara reminds me of the old joke about the Corkman who had an inferiority complex. He believed he was just the same as everybody else.

Ian Botham was another who was — if only partially — destroyed by his own greatest achievements. His 1981 series against Australia was probably the dramatic individual contribution to the changing of the course of a Test series. And though the flame was to flicker on and off for the rest of his career, Botham the man was never quite the same afterwards.

Something of the same is true with Gazza, after the glories of the 1990 World Cup. It is the football that the wise person remembers, not the tears: the speed of thought, the wit, the invention, the wonderful strutting cockcertainty.

> 'Gough's hat-trick offered the feeling of someone who was getting his own back on life'

I know the Cup Final injury did much of the de-Gazza-ing of Gazza: but perhaps that wild and loony tackle with which he injured himself was itself part of a wild and loony search for lost glories. And Michael Owen?

Well. We will have to see if his 25 paces of perfection have destroyed something in him. We can only watch and wait. There is something about these dizzy peaks of achievement that reminds me of Edmund and the Turkish delight in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the wonderful C. S. Lewis fairytale. Edmund is given the sweets he most wanted by The Wicked Witch.

"She knew, though Edmund did not, that this was enchanted Turkish delight and that any one who had once tasted it would want more and more of it, and would even, if they were allowed, go on eating till they killed themselves." But Edmund did not get any more Turkish delight and it was this — the having once tasted and never again tasting — that turned him totally and completely wrong.

Question: is it better to have never tasted, than to spend the rest of your life missing what you can only ever taste but once? Well, one thing is for sure: most of us will never know.

Lara is left open to dangers of home rule

FROM IVO TENNANT IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (fourth day of five): West Indies, with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 328 runs to beat South Africa

THE discipline that Clive Lloyd inculcated in his players when he captained West Indies is not so apparent now that he is their manager. Needing 421 to beat South Africa in the fourth Test here, they lost six wickets for 93 and were fortunate that the extra half-hour was not claimed.

A recurring problem for West Indies during the series has been that they have not been given a proper start to their innings. Lara has had to cope with the new ball too often for their liking. Murray is no opener and nor has Wallace looked the part. He was out for a duck, to a bizarre scooped shot to mid-on off Pollock.

Kallis had Murray leg-before and Chanderpaul was brilliantly taken left-handed by Cullinan at first slip. Hooper's timing was as pleasing as ever until he dragged a ball from Kallis on to the stumps and Lara was beaten in the flight by Adams.

It would be churlish to be too critical of a man who has scored 110 and an unbeaten 88 in addition to taking five wickets, but for Kallis to make only 13 runs in an hour after lunch was a surprise.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 406-8 dec (D J Cullinan 168, J H Kallis 110)

Second innings

G Kirsten c Murray b McLean	5
H H Gibbs c Jacobs b Dillon	25
J H Kallis not out	88
D J Cullinan lbw b McLean	0
*W J Cronje c Hooper b Dillon	54
J N Rhodes lbw b Hooper	23
S M Pollock c Lara b Hooper	3
†M V Boucher c and b McLean	22
A A Donald not out	0
Extras (lb 4, w 1, nb 1)	6
Total (7 wkts dec)	226

D J Terbrugge and P R Adams did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-31, 3-31, 4-125, 5-174, 6-190, 7-222.

BOWLING: McLean 16-1-53-3; Gibson 14.4-2-51-0; Dillon 17-2-37-2; Hooper 28-8-52-2; Chanderpaul 12-1-29-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings 212 (C L Hooper 86).

Second innings

P A Wallace c Gibbs b Pollock	0
J R Murray lbw b Kallis	7
S Chanderpaul c Cullinan b Kallis	5
*B C Lara c and b Adams	33
C L Hooper b Kallis	20
D Ganga lbw b Pollock	16
†R D Jacobs not out	0
O D Gibson not out	6
Extras (lb 2, nb 4)	6
Total (6 wkts)	93

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-7, 3-15, 4-47, 5-87, 6-87.

BOWLING: Pollock 12-3-21-2; Kallis 12-4-27-3; Cronje 1-1-0-0; Terbrugge 7-3-11-0; Adams 8-2-32-1.

Umpires: S Venkataraghavan (India) and D L Orchard

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England's late improvement unable to mask inferiority complex against dominant home team

Familiar failings advance cause of new generation

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

WHEN the dismay subsides, along with the briefly inflated hope, England will be left with only the stark realities of this Ashes series. For all their planning and preparation, certain things have scarcely changed. In areas of technique, and across the broad span of cricketing resources, Australia remain markedly superior.

What England have belatedly achieved here, to the great credit of their coach and captain, is a striking improvement in character under pressure. Adversity now seems to bring out their fight, rather than their fatalism, and there is no disputing that Australia were given a considerable scare over the last two Tests.

Quite why it should take the direst of situations to stir England to such heights, though, is their enduring frustration. Certainly, Alec Stewart, the captain, cannot explain it. "If I could, we'd have done something about it long ago," he said sadly.

Stewart, while proud of his players' resilience in the final fortnight, would wish nobody to be fooled by it. He is aware that until Christmas, when the series began its wholly unexpected finale, England had been woefully second-best and that it was only the fortuitous electric storm on the last afternoon in Brisbane that prevented them from being 3-0 down before the fightback began.

Indeed, their last-day performance in Hobart, against an Australia reserve side exhorted to believe they were playing in a sixth Test, was so pitiful that Stewart and David Lloyd, the coach, considered it the worst day of England cricket they have been associated with.

It was that day, and its aftermath both here and in England, that accelerated speculation over the future personnel of team management. It will continue over a period of months, as the initiatives of an England committee now chaired by Brian Bolus become clearer and the idea to appoint a full-time general manager takes shape.

By the end of the calendar year it is possible that the England team will have a new captain and chairman of selectors, too, along with a new coach. That, however, will not necessarily improve the environment — now unrecognisably unified — or the playing results.

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has been in Australia for the heady end-of-series days and made some interesting observations. On the eve of the final Test, he arrived at the Sydney Cricket Ground as the teams were in the nets. He murmured appreciatively about the facilities in Australia before surveying England's Test record and saying: "It's no good us being fifth, sixth or seventh in the world. We have to be in the top two." He is wise enough to know there was a connection.

Every Australian state ground has splendid, off-ground net pitches that mirror conditions in the middle. Most English counties have no proper nets, away from their playing area, so they cannot practise at all while a game is in process. The difference in attitude that this represents is profound and is one good reason Lloyd fancies a shot at coaching an Australian side.

Australian facilities do not end with nets, any more than their cricketing culture ends with sledging. The infrastructure of assistance available to players is impressive and the fact that England are now beginning to imitate it is another thing that can be credited to Lloyd.

> 'Certain problems remain as great as ever'

The coach, however, has not cured an air of fallibility whenever Australia appear on the fixture list, and he knows it. Senior players now acknowledge that a degree of subconscious defeatism has been present in Ashes games and that a new generation may be necessary to contest the next Australian series in 2001.

It certainly seems unlikely that Michael Atherton or Angus Fraser will take any part in that campaign and it would be no surprise if their Test careers ended in Melbourne. If so, victory will be the consolation of an otherwise inappropriate farewell, for Atherton made his only "pair" for England and Fraser bowled unthreateningly and, eventually, not at all.

Fraser has lost the nip that gave his metronomic accuracy its extra dimension. Atherton's problems have been partly technique, partly ill-fortune and chiefly a back condition that is recurring with ever more frequency.

Graham Thorpe's departure for home, after only two Tests, was a dreadful blow for England. He, too, has long-term back trouble that does not bode well in the maelstrom of international cricket.

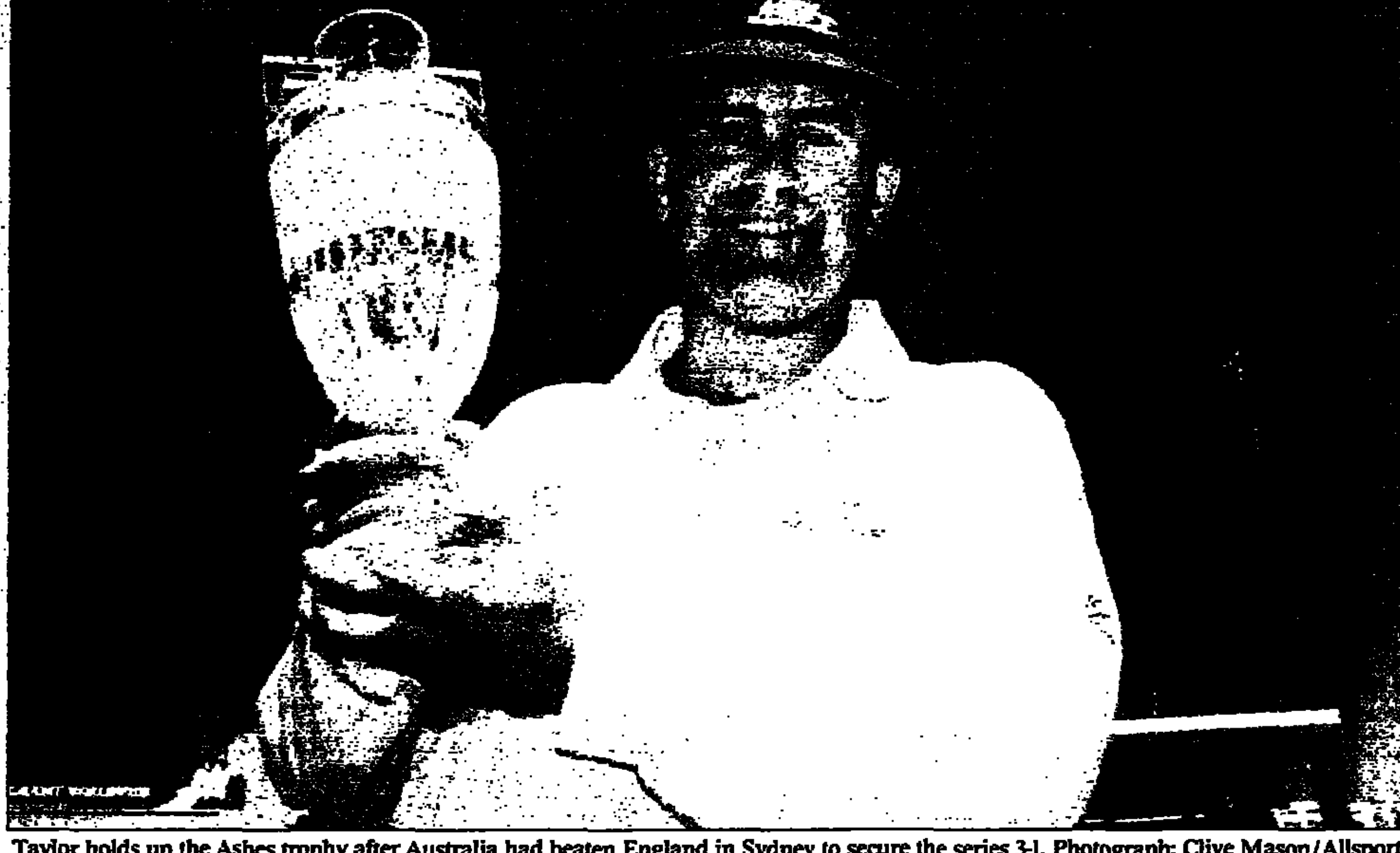
There are several others for whom this has been a disillusioning tour — John Crawley, Robert Croft and Dominic Cork among them. Ben Hollioake, justifiably chosen as an all-rounder of potential, has regressed, but Alex Tudor, the wild card, has the makings of an impressive cricketer if his suspect body stands up to the strain.

Certain problems characteristic of all recent England teams remain as great as ever. The bowling of spin is in crisis; it must be if Ashley Giles was the best that could be produced from the hat to rival Australia's introduction of Shane Warne.

Wicketkeeping is in a scarcely healthier state. If Stewart's latest switch back to opening is to be sustained, Chris Read, the A team wicketkeeper from Nottinghamshire, may play Test cricket before the end of summer.

But there were some shining positives from this tour, four of them in particular. Nasser Hussain and Mark Ramprakash batted with conviction and consistency, Darren Gough has never bowled better or faster and Dean Headley, having looked as if the series would pass him by, took 19 wickets in the last three Tests.

Gough was the talisman, his beaming face and bursting biceps the measure of English pride, but the progress of Hussain and Ramprakash may be more significant. Late maturers — almost contemporaries of Atherton yet somehow seeming years younger — they may at last have the self-esteem, and the confidence of others, to be seriously considered when the captaincy becomes vacant.



Taylor holds up the Ashes trophy after Australia had beaten England in Sydney to secure the series 3-1. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

Taylor triumphs in the long run

Michael Henderson salutes the Australia captain, who has become one of the greats

Mark Taylor wore his baggy green cap on the final day of this last Test, and he wore it for a purpose. The sands of time are shifting for Taylor, who may relinquish the Australian captaincy after the forthcoming tour of West Indies, and, as he said, if it was to be his last Test on native soil: "I wanted to make sure I was wearing the right outfit."

"Doing things right" is the phrase that best describes Taylor's leadership of a side that has become, under his stewardship, the strongest and most accomplished in the world. Whoever succeeds him later this year will have a splendid bequest. There is quality, depth and balance, but it has taken a clear-sighted and independent captain to release its full potential.

He has lost only two rubbers, in Pakistan and India, where the locals can be hard to conquer on slow, turning pitches. His 26 winning Tests include series victories, home and away, against England, South Africa, West Indies and Pakistan. In that time Australia have become the dominant modern side, skilful, resilient and appealing to watch, not least because Taylor has sought to win every game.

In his address to the crowd after the match, Taylor said he hoped to see them all again next year. It was an oblique comment on which he declined to elaborate, except to say: "I said the same thing last year." However, nobody doubted that this was his farewell in Australia, and he goes out as a six-times winner against England, thrice as plain mister, thrice as captain.

He took his leave with the dignity and modesty that one expects from him. On the field he does the right things, handling his men with skill. Off the field he says the right things, which is not as easy as it sounds. Michael Atherton, an intelligent man who knew he had to show a more sympathetic face to the world, could not do it.

Taylor is equally adept at fielding awkward questions. Even during that dreadful run of form two years ago, when he could not buy a run, and critics demanded his head, he never scowled — not in public, at any rate. As captain he bats for his side; he also bats for the game.

He has been lucky, that much is true. Successful leaders often are. Since a poor first Test as captain in Pakistan five years ago, when he made a pair and Australia lost a classic battle by one wicket, he has been blessed. Five winning tosses this series is not an insignificant fact. But he has made his luck, and has taken advantage of those favourable moments, being bold when boldness was required, and shrewd when it was wise not to declare his hand.

He is modest, yes, but that does not mean he underplays his own efforts. This is a man who has made 7,500 runs in Test matches going in first, and not many Test openers manage that. He has now held more catches than anybody in the history of Test cricket and he pointed out that he set the record with a good one, low down off McGrath.

To say that Taylor has enjoyed his cricket against England is hardly to gild the lily. Six of his 19 Test hundreds have come against them, five in England, including that career-saving 129 at Edgbaston two years ago when another failure would have compelled him to stand down. Players in dressing-rooms all over England, watching his innings that day, joined in the applause when he reached his hundred. That is how Taylor is regarded among his own, as a player's player and a man's man.

Though the end is approaching for him, and one or two others, he does not worry about the team. "It depends on how well we can fill the holes," he said, "but we have the players to do it. We are producing some very good cricketers. Whether they are of the same Test hardness, only time will tell."

Steve Waugh, the senior member of the Test team, will resume his leadership of the one-day side for the forthcoming triangular competition — although he will miss the first two games because of a slight hamstring tear — and he will captain Australia in the World Cup. But when the Test baton changes hands, Taylor expects Shane Warne to be in a position to receive it. Despite the recent brouhaha linking Warne with an Indian bookmaker, Taylor said: "I still see him as one of the candidates."

Taylor made an unlikely candidate when he presented his international credentials ten years ago. He did not hit the ball like other, more obviously gifted batsmen. In fact, he did not look an athlete at all, being tubby and slow. But the race is not always to the swift, and Taylor has proved himself the most sure-footed of men. In the ranks of modern captains, those since the war, he is among the best.

FINAL SYDNEY SCOREBOARD

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Hick b Headley ... 2 (13min, 8 balls)
M J Slater c Hegg b Headley ... 18 (62min, 35 balls, 2 fours)
J L Langer c Ramprakash b Tudor ... 26 (54min, 39 balls, 2 fours)
M E Waugh c Hegg b Headley ... 121 (294min, 205 balls, 10 fours)
S R Waugh b Such ... 96 (201min, 171 balls, 10 fours)
D S Lehmann c Hussain b Tudor ... 32 (44min, 37 balls, 5 fours)
†I A Healy c Hegg b Gough ... 14 (48min, 28 balls, 1 four)
S K Warne not out ... 2 (14min, 7 balls)
S C G MacGill b Gough ... 0 (2min, 1 ball)
C R Miller b Gough ... 0 (1min, 1 ball)
G D McGrath c Hick b Headley ... 0 (2min, 2 balls)
Extras (lb 2, nb 9) ... 11
Total (87.3 overs, 373min) ... 322

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4 (Slater 1), 2-52 (Langer 26), 3-52 (M E Waugh 0), 4-242 (M E Waugh 91), 5-284 (M E Waugh 101), 6-319 (Healy 14), 7-321 (Warne 1), 8-321 (Warne 1), 9-321 (Warne 1).

BOWLING: Gough 17-4-61-3; Headley 19.3-3-62-4; Tudor 12-1-64-2; Such 24-6-77-1; Ramprakash 15-0-58-0.

Second Innings

M J Slater c Hegg b Headley ... 123 (271min, 189 balls, 3 sixes, 11 fours)
*M A Taylor c Stewart b Gough ... 2 (30min, 25 balls)
J L Langer lbw b Headley ... 1 (11min, 5 balls)
M E Waugh c Ramprakash b Headley ... 24 (79min, 60 balls, 4 fours)
D S Lehmann c Crawley b Such ... 0 (12min, 8 balls)
†I A Healy c Crawley b Such ... 5 (36min, 26 balls)
S R Waugh b Headley ... 8 (37min, 29 balls, 1 four)
S K Warne c Ramprakash b Such ... 8 (24min, 12 balls)
S C G MacGill c Butcher b Such ... 6 (46min, 24 balls)
C R Miller not out ... 3 (15min, 9 balls)
G D McGrath c Stewart b Such ... 0 (2min, 2 balls)
Extras (b 3, lb 1) ... 4
Total (64.5 overs, 287min) ... 184

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16 (Slater 14), 2-25 (Slater 22), 3-64 (Slater 37), 4-73 (Slater 46), 5-91 (Slater 59), 6-110 (Slater 70), 7-141 (Slater 93), 8-180 (MacGill 6), 9-184 (Miller 3).

BOWLING: Headley 19-7-40-4; Gough 15-3-51-1; Such 25.5-5-81-5; Tudor 5-2-8-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings

M A Butcher lbw b Warne ... 36 (90min, 70 balls, 4 fours)
*A J Stewart c Warne b McGrath ... 3 (28min, 17 balls)
N Hussain c M E Waugh b Miller ... 42 (174min, 126 balls, 4 fours)
M R Ramprakash c MacGill b McGrath ... 14 (52min, 42 balls, 1 four)
G A Hick c Warne b MacGill ... 23 (55min, 38 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)
J P Crawley c Taylor b MacGill ... 44 (116min, 75 balls, 5 fours)
†W K Hegg b Miller ... 15 (52min, 50 balls)
A J Tudor b MacGill ... 14 (43min, 40 balls, 2 fours)
D W Headley c McGrath b MacGill ... 8 (25min, 20 balls, 1 four)
D Gough lbw b MacGill ... 0 (2min, 2 balls)
P M Such not out ... 0 (6min, 4 balls)
Extras (b 8, lb 8, w 1, nb 4) ... 21
Total (80.1 overs, 327min) ... 220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18 (Butcher 13), 2-56 (Hussain 8), 3-88 (Hussain 25), 4-137 (Hussain 42), 5-139 (Crawley 2), 6-171 (Crawley 19), 7-204 (Crawley 36), 8-213 (Headley 1), 9-213 (Headley 1).

BOWLING: McGrath 17-7-35-2; Miller 23-6-45-2; MacGill 20.1-2-57-5; Warne 20-4-67-1.

MacGill: 12 wickets

Second Innings

M A Butcher st Healy b Warne ... 27 (60min, 47 balls, 3 fours)
*A J Stewart st Healy b MacGill ... 42 (83min, 55 balls, 5 fours)
N Hussain c and b MacGill ... 53 (169min, 131 balls, 2 fours)
M R Ramprakash c Taylor b McGrath ... 14 (60min, 46 balls, 1 four)
G A Hick b MacGill ... 7 (39min, 25 balls, 1 four)
J P Crawley lbw b Miller ... 5 (22min, 14 balls)
†W K Hegg c Healy b MacGill ... 3 (10min, 10 balls)
A J Tudor b MacGill ... 3 (28min, 21 balls)
D W Headley c Healy b MacGill ... 16 (25min, 23 balls, 2 fours)
D Gough not out ... 7 (19min, 16 balls, 1 four)
P M Such c and b MacGill ... 2 (10min, 12 balls)
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 3) ... 9
Total (66.1 overs, 257min) ... 188

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57 (Stewart 28), 2-77 (Hussain 6), 3-110 (Hussain 21), 4-131 (Hussain 33), 5-150 (Hussain 47), 6-157 (Hussain 51), 7-162 (Tudor 2), 8-175 (Headley 12), 9-180 (Gough 1).

BOWLING: McGrath 10-1-40-1 (nb 3, 8 fours; 4-0-26-0, 6-1-14-1); Miller 17-1-50-1 (2 fours; 2-0-8-0 medium/4-1-11-0 spin, 3-0-7-0, 8-0-24-1); MacGill 20.1-4-50-7 (w 1; 5 fours; 8-1-27-1, 12.1-3-23-6); Warne 19-3-43-1 (2 fours; 15-3-31-1, 4-0-12-0).

SCORING NOTES: Fourth day: Lunch: 175-7 (60 overs, 245min; Tudor 3, Headley 12).

Attendance: 27,754. Total match attendance: 142,282.

Match award: S C G MacGill.

Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and D B Hair. Third umpire: S J Taufel. Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).

SERIES DETAILS: First (Brisbane) Drawn. Second (Perth) Australia won by 7 wickets. Third (Adelaide) Australia won by 205 runs. Fourth (Melbourne) England won by 12 runs.

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

SERIES AVERAGES

England

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct	St
M R Ramprakash	5	10	2	379	69*	47.34	0	4	5	0
N Hussain	5	10	1	407	89*	45.22	0	4	4	0
G P Thorpe	1	2	0	86	77	43.00	0	1	0	0
A J Stewart	5	10	1	316	107	35.11	1	2	11	0
R D B Croft	1	2	1	27	23	27.00	0	0	0	0
M A Butcher	5	10	0	259	116	25.90	1	0	6	0
G A Hick	4	8	0	205	68	25.62	0	2	11	0
J P Crawley	3	6	0	86	44	14.33	0	0	3	0
M A Atherton	4	8	0	110	41	13.75	0	0	2	0

ALSO BATTED: D Gough (9 inns, 43 runs); D W Headley (8 inns, 47 runs); D G Cork (4 inns, 39 runs); A J Tudor (2 inns, 35 runs); W K Hegg (4 inns, 30 runs); A D Mullally (7 inns, 20 runs); A R C Fraser (3 inns, 8 runs); P M Such (4 inns, 2 runs)

Bowling

	O	M	Runs	Wkts	Avge	5W	10W	Best Bowl
D W Headley	121.3	20	423	19	22.26	1	0	6-60
A J Tudor	42.2	8	180	7	25.71	0	0	4-89
P M Such	116.6	24	323	11	29.36	1	0	5-81
A D Mullally	157.3	44	364	12	30.33	1	0	5-105
D Gough	201.3	39	687	21	32.71	1	0	5-96
D G Cork	57	11	165	4	41.25	0	0	2-88

ALSO BOWLED: A R C Fraser 69-8-229-4; R D B Croft 42-8-128-2; M R Ramprakash 44-3-138-1; G A Hick 1-0-1-0.

Australia

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct	St
S R Waugh	5	10	4	498	122*	83.00	2	2	0	0
M E Waugh	5	10	3	393	121	56.14	1	1	10	0
J L Langer	5	10	1	436	179*	48.44	1	2	4	0
M J Slater	5	10	0	460	123	46.00	3	0	5	0
I A Healy	5	8	1	221	134	31.57	1	0	16	3
D W Fleming	4	5	1	95	71*	23.75	0	1	2	0
M A Taylor	5	10	0	228	61	22.80	0	2	9	0
S C G MacGill	4	6	0	69	43	11.50	0	0	5	0

ALSO BATTED: D S Lehmann (4 inns, 49 runs); R T Ponting (4 inns, 47 runs); C R Miller (4 inns, 17 runs); M Nicholson (2 inns, 14 runs); G D McGrath (5 inns, 15 runs); J N Gillespie (1 inns, 11 runs); S K Warne (2 inns, 10 runs); M S Kasprowicz (1 inns, 0 runs)

Bowling

	O	M	Runs	Wkts	Avge	5W	10W	Best Bowl
S R Waugh	11	3	28	2	14.00	0	0	2-8
J N Gillespie	22.2	2	111	7	15.85	1	0	5-88
S C MacGill	185.2	32	478	27	17.70	0	0	7-50
G D McGrath	198.4	59	492	24	20.50	1	0	6-85
D W Fleming	134.5	29	392	16	24.50	1	0	5-46
C R Miller	99	18	238	9	26.44	0	0	3-57
M Nicholson	25	4	115	4	28.75	0	0	3-56
M E Waugh	25	2	90	3	30.00	0	0	2-55

ALSO BOWLED: S K Warne 37-10-110-2; M S Kasprowicz 37-10-110-2; R T Ponting 4-1-10-0

McMillan shuts door on India

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HAMILTON (fourth day of five): New Zealand, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 273 runs ahead of India

CRAIG McMILLAN and Adam Parore put New Zealand in command of the third and final Test of the series against India yesterday. Their 140-run partnership — a fifth-wicket record for New Zealand against India — enabled their team to reach 323 for six in their second innings by the end of the fourth day, giving them a lead of 273. That put the match almost beyond India and a draw would give New Zealand the series 1-0.

New Zealand scored only 44 runs in the two hours before lunch and, in the process, lost four wickets. McMillan and Parore, however, occupied the crease throughout the second session to completely alter the course of the innings.

McMillan drove with power and punished anything short. He faced 102 balls and hit 13 fours on his way to making 84. Parore was content to play second fiddle, his half-century arriving off 120 balls and including six boundaries.

McMillan and Parore eventually departed in quick succession, but Chris Cairns and Dion Nash carried on the good work by adding 98 in the last 28 overs. The second new ball failed to restrain them as the Indian bowling fell away.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 366 (C D McMillan 92, R G Twose 87, M J Horne 63, J Srinath 5 for 95)

Second Innings

M D Bell lbw b Tendulkar ... 25
M J Horne c Mongia b Srinath ... 26
*S P Fleming b Prasad ... 18
R G Twose lbw b Tendulkar ... 4
C D McMillan c Mongia b Singh ... 84
†A C Parore c Singh b Kumble ... 50
C L Cairns not out ... 52
D J Nash not out ... 46
Extras (b 8, lb 6, w 1, nb 3) ... 18
Total (6 wkts) ... 323

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-69, 3-76, 4-85, 5-225, 6-225.

BOWLING: Prasad 27-8-55-1; Singh 15-2-77-1; Srinath 20-6-82-1; Kumble 34-9-82-1; Tendulkar 7-0-30-2; Ganguly 3-1-3-0.

INDIA: First Innings 416 (R S Dravid 190, S R Tendulkar 67, J Srinath 76, C L Cairns 4 for 107).

Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and D B Cowie.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Brian Jackson, an experienced rubber bridge performer, showed me this unusual hold-up play.

Dealer North | **Love all** | **Rubber bridge**

North: ♠ K 4 ♡ Q ♢ Q 7 6 3 ♣ A K J 6 4 2
West: ♠ J 10 9 7 6 5 ♡ A 3 ♢ 9 4 ♣ 10 9 5
East: ♠ A 2 ♡ 10 9 8 7 6 5 ♢ A 10 8 5 ♣ 3
South: ♠ Q 8 3 ♡ K J 4 2 ♢ K J 2 ♣ Q 8 7

W	N	E	S
–	1 C	Pass	1 H
1 S	2 C	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Double	All Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps Doubled, by South. Lead: jack of spades.

I don't think West should bid over One Heart. One Spade has no pre-emptive effect in this sequence, and if North becomes the declarer in a suit contract it may result in East giving away a trick on the opening lead. Make West's hand AJ10976 and nothing else, and One Spade is a sound overcall.

When North-South reach Three No-Trumps, I think it is wrong for East to double. He has no great surprises for declarer, and although the double encourages a spade lead, most of the time West would do that anyway.

At the table declarer put the king of spades on the jack, so East-West were able to clear the spades and declarer was restricted to six tricks in clubs and a spade. But after East's double declarer should have realised he had two aces. Then playing the king of spades at trick one was never going to be the winning play – if it held the trick, East would later get in to play a spade through declarer's queen.

Try the effect of ducking the jack of spades in both hands. If West has AJ109xx, that cuts the communications. It also cuts the communication when East has Ax of spades. The only time it fails is when West has only five spades, and in that case declarer was never going to make his contract anyway.

☐ In the play-off to aid selection of the next British open team, Collings (John Collings, Martin Jones, Gary Hyett, Alan Mould, Stuart and Gerald Tredinnick) beat Hackett (Paul, Jason and Justin Hackett, Tony Forrester, Tom Townsend, David Mossop) by 18 IMPs. The selectors have not yet made a decision.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TIMKAT
a. A biscuit
b. A festival
c. A bearing

SEELING
a. Blinding
b. Aquatics
c. Battlefield

FEED PREP
a. Private study
b. Oil process
c. Catering

FISTMELE
a. A punch-up
b. A distance
c. An internal hernia

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

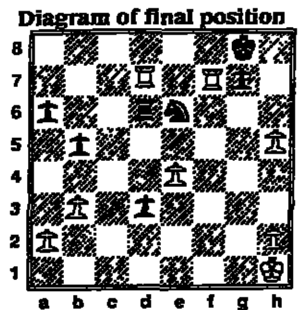
Sokolov leads

Ivan Sokolov maintained his lead at Hastings with a draw in the sixth round, since his main rival, Matthew Sadler, faltered and lost to James Plaskett. Sergei Shipov, the early leader, regained some lost ground by defeating Mikhail Saltaev.

White: James Plaskett
Black: Matthew Sadler
Hastings Premier 1999
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	Bb5+	Bd7
4	Bxd7+	Nxd7
5	0-0	e6
6	Qe2	Ngf6
7	b3	Be7
8	Bb2	0-0
9	c4	a6
10	d4	cxd4
11	Nxd4	Qb6
12	Kh1	Qc5
13	Nd2	Qh5
14	f3	Rfe8
15	g4	Qg5
16	Rg1	Ne5
17	Raf1	Ng6
18	Qf2	Nf4
19	Qe3	Nd7
20	Nf5	e5
21	Rd1	Bf8
22	Nb1	b5
23	Nxd6	Bxd6
24	Rxd6	Nf8
25	c5	N8e6
26	Nc3	Nh3
27	Qxg5	Nhxg5
28	c6	Nxf3
29	Rf1	Nfd4
30	Nd5	Rac8
31	Bxd4	exd4
32	Rd7	Rxc6
33	Ne7+	Rxe7
34	Rxe7	h5
35	gxh5	Rd6
36	Rfxf7	d3
37	Rd7	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Sergei Shipov
Black: Mikhail Saltaev
Hastings Premier 1999
King's Indian Defence

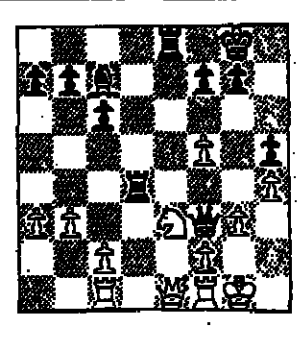
1	c4	Nf6
2	d4	d6
3	Nf3	Nbd7
4	Nc3	g6
5	e4	e5
6	Be2	Bg7
7	0-0	0-0
8	Be3	Re8
9	d5	Nh5
10	g3	Bf8
11	Ne1	Ng7
12	Nd3	f5
13	Qd2	Be7
14	f3	Rf8
15	Kg2	a5
16	Rae1	Nf6
17	c5	fxe4
18	fxe4	Ng4
19	Rxf8+	Bxf8
20	Bg1	Ne8
21	cxd6	cxd6
22	Qd1	Ngf6
23	Be3	Bd7
24	a4	Be7
25	Nf2	Nc7
26	Qb3	Bc8
27	Rc1	Nd7
28	Nb5	Na6
29	Na7	Nac5
30	Rxc5	Nxc5
31	Bxc5	dxc5
32	d6+	Kf8
33	dxe7+	Qxe7
34	Nxc8	Rxc8
35	Bc4	Qc7
36	Ng4	Kg7
37	Ne3	Rf8
38	Bd5	Rb8
39	Nc4	b6
40	h4	Kh8
41	Qc3	Re8
42	Qe3	Kg7
43	h5	h6
44	hxg6	Kxg6
45	Qf3	Qe7
46	Qf5+	Kg7
47	Qh5	Rf8
48	b3	Kh7
49	Nxe5	Qf6
50	Qf5+	Qxf5
51	exf5	Rb8
52	f6	Black resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ubilava — Van der Wiel, Elgoibar 1998.

How did Black convert his tremendous pressure along the central files into a direct kingside attack?



Solution on page 38

RUGBY UNION

Wasps aim to get title challenge back on course

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THREE of the best-known clubs in London rugby are vying for supremacy in the capital at the halfway stage of the Allied Dunbar Premiership — nor can any of them be discounted as potential winners of the first division. For the time being, however, neither Saracens, Wasps nor Harlequins will look much further than the next game.

At the weekend Wasps and Saracens changed places in the table, thanks to the unexpected defeat Wasps suffered at the hands of West Hartlepool in the bleak North East.

They can reverse that situation when they entertain Saracens at Loftus Road this evening and, if there was any hint of complacency among Wasps at the weekend, there will be none now. "West Hartlepool played particularly well and we played particularly badly," Nigel Melville, director of rugby at Wasps, said.

"It shows you can't afford to have a poor game in this league and I have no doubt that West will do the same to other teams before this season is through. But I don't have any problem about the big games, about players raising themselves for the occasion."

Wasps stood as firm as any when they went to Vicarage Road in October. They came away with a 31-17 win in a game which — allied to their wayward display against Harlequins nine days earlier — caused Saracens far more doubt about their immediate future than September had suggested they should have.

Moreover, Saracens remain without Francois Pienaar, their captain-coach, whose foot injury keeps him out. However, Alain Penaud returns at fly half, having come through a fitness test yesterday on his "dead leg".

That will be a considerable relief to Gavin Johnson, who returns to his natural position of full back, from which he scored an injury-time try against Wasps ten weeks ago.

Wasps have moved Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, from blind-side flanker to No 8, a position that he frequently occupies in the national side, whatever the number on his back may say. That allows the inclusion of Eben Rollitt, who has been in good form of late.

"Where we play Lawrence depends upon whom he is playing with," Melville said. "We are very pleased with Eben and we have Joe Worsley on the bench, who can act as an impact player."

Andy Reed is preferred to Simon Shaw at lock, Simon Mitchell and Darren Molloy rejoining the front row.

Mitchell is set for a decent run at hooker as Trevor Leota, the stalwart Samoan, is likely to be missing for three weeks after damaging a knee against Gloucester. Paul Sampson, who won such plaudits for the decisive try against Gloucester, gives way on the wing to Shane Roiser.

Gloucester have a problem to resolve with David Sims, their captain, who has been omitted from the first XV since mid-November. Sims, 29, has been overshadowed by Mark Cornwell, while Rob Fidler, his fellow lock, has been leading the side.

Sims has been linked with Cardiff and Bristol but has 18 months of his contract remaining and Richard Hill, the director of rugby, is keen not to lose one of his forward assets.

"We would like Dave to stay at the club and fight for his place," Hill said.

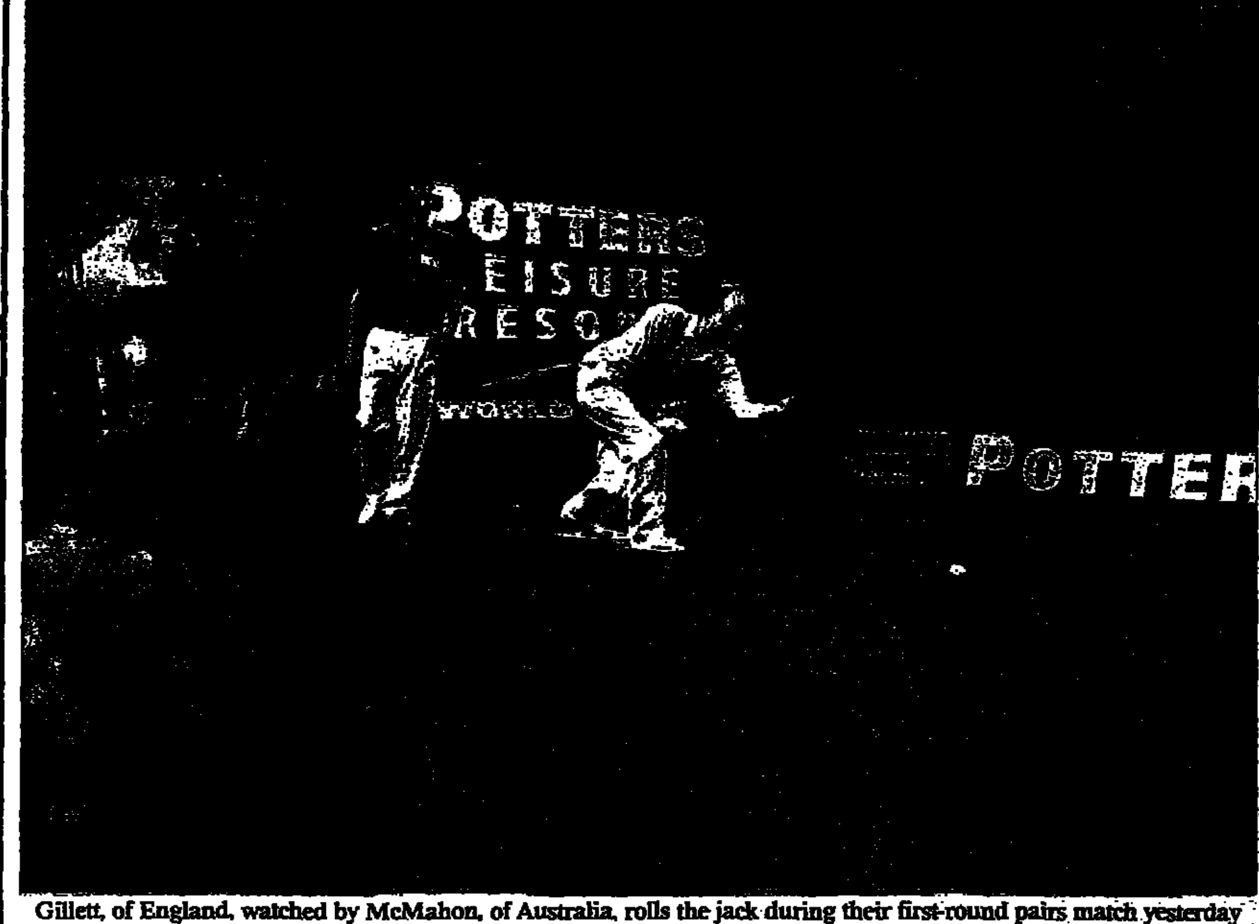
Toulouse surrender their grip on trophy

BIGGER and better than its equivalent last year, *The Times* Trophy has thrown up an unlikely quarter-final line-up with three of the semi-finalists from last season, including both finalists, failing to progress from the pool stages (Michael Aylwin writes).

The tournament, contested by the leading university rugby clubs in Europe, is notoriously difficult to predict, with such a high turnover of players from year to year, but there were nevertheless some eye-opening results from the opening round.

Toulouse, the holders, so comfortable last season, have already capitulated to University College Dublin, the dominant force of Irish university rugby. They now go through to face Brunel, conquerors of Swansea, the beaten finalists last season, at the Richmond Athletic Ground today.

Trinity Carmarthen are the only Welsh side left in the draw after defeats for their more illustrious compatriots, Swansea and University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC), who reached the semi-finals last season. UWIC lost to Loughborough, who now travel to the south of France to meet Grenoble, the French champions. Trinity Carmarthen entertain Harper Adams, who had a resounding win over Durham, while the fourth quarter-final sees University College Cork play hosts to Northumbria.



ROB HOWARTH

Gillett, of England, watched by McMahon, of Australia, rolls the jack during their first-round pairs match yesterday

Schuback keeps his nerve

David Rhys Jones watches one of the most endearing characters in bowls upstage Australia's No 1

A SUPERB take-out from Ian Schuback, who is regarded by bowls enthusiasts as a sort of Crocodile Dundee, turned almost certain defeat into a 7-4, 7-3, 4-7, 2-7, 7-6 victory for him and his fellow Australian, Ian Taylor, in the first round of the world indoor pairs championship at Potters Leisure Resort on the Norfolk coast yesterday.

Having won the first two sets, Taylor and Schuback were pegged back by Rowan Brassey, of New Zealand, and Steve Glasson, of Australia, who won the next two and looked the likely winners when they led 6-5 in the decider.

On what turned out to be the last end, Brassey set up a match lie, but Taylor, the man with the impossibly complicated delivery, trailed the jack expertly to a back position, and settled down approximately 18 inches in front of the little white ball.

Glasson, ranked No 1 in Australia, drew beautifully to restore the match lie, but Schuback, like a master marksman, ruthlessly struck the shot off the rink. Glasson, surprisingly unable to repeat the accuracy of the first bowl, then finished two yards short.

Already holding one shot, Schuback was left with the easiest task of drawing the winner. "Anywhere within two yards would have done," he said. "If I'd missed that, I'd have been looking for a rope to hang myself."

Earlier, Schuback, always a favourite with the Guild Hall crowd at Preston, and now the darling of Potters, produced an astonishing conversion shot to win the first set, when the scores were level at 4-4. Brassey and Glasson held a set lie, with three good shots near the jack, when a Schuback bullseye removed all three red-disc bowls, and left three yellow-disc bowls in a scoring position.

Five bowlers from the southern hemisphere participated yesterday: in the first match, Mark McMahon, who lives and works in Sydney, partnered David Gourlay, of Scotland, into the quarter-finals.

McMahon lends a cosmopolitan dimension to the arena: born in Dunfermline, he played bowls internationally for Hong Kong. He gave Gourlay a good start, matching and often beating Les Gillett, *The Times*/Taylor English Bowler of the Year in 1998, to the jack.

Robert Newman, Gillett's skip, who will be 24 next month, played well enough to suggest he will be a force to be reckoned with in future, and the match looked destined to go the full distance.

The English pair won the first set by the narrowest of margins, and, although they lost the next two, they appeared comfortable in the fourth, only to concede two successive doubles and allow the No 5 seeds to ease through, 6-7, 7-5, 7-4, 7-4.

"We played two loose ends, and paid the penalty," Newman, who reached the quarter-finals of the world indoor singles championship last year, said. "It's especially important to be consistent in two-bowl pairs, and they were more consistent than us — particularly towards the end of each set."

FIRST ROUND: M McMahon (Aus) and D Gourlay (Scot) bt L Gillett and R Newman (Eng) 6-7, 7-5, 7-4, 7-4; I Taylor and I Schuback (Aus) bt R Brassey (NZ) and S Glasson (Aus) 7-4, 7-3, 4-7, 2-7, 7-6.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Gateshead choose Walters as captain

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Kerrod Walters, 31, the former Australia hooker, was yesterday named captain of the new Gateshead Thunder club, whose first competitive game is against Leeds Rhinos at Gateshead International Stadium in the JJB Super League, on March 7.

Walters was in the second wave of imported players who arrived from Australia on New Year's Day. Work permits are still awaited for the last two Australian players to be signed, Brett Green, a forward, and Brett Grogan, a centre. Sheffield Eagles, who failed with two earlier attempts to sign Paul Anderson, 21, from St Helens, have agreed to pay the £10,000 asking price for the utility player.

■ **CRICKET:** Somerset have appointed Jamie Cox, the Tasmanian batsman, as their captain and overseas player for next season.

Cox has been the Tasmania vice-captain under David Boon's leadership for the past three seasons. Peter Anderson, Somerset's chief executive, said: "We were looking for a proven top-order batsman with captaincy ability who would be available for the whole season. We believe we have found such a player."

■ **SQUASH:** Two exceptional players emerged from the semi-finals of the CGU British junior open championships at Abbeydale Park in Sheffield yesterday. James Willstrop, a 6ft 3in 15-year-old from Pontefract, defeated Alberto Manso, of Spain, 1-9, 9-5, 9-3, 9-1 in the semi-final of the boys' under-17 championship while Omar Refaat, 14, from Egypt, defeated Dylan Bennett, of Holland, 9-2, 9-4, 9-3 in the boys' under-15 championship.

RACING: TBA CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR DECLARATION OF VENDOR PURCHASES

Phantom sales haunt breeders

BY CHRIS McGRATH

A SKELETON in the cupboard of commercial breeding was dragged into the open yesterday, though it would probably be more accurately described as a phantom. Nigel Elwes, chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA), used its annual general meeting in London to draw attention to the masquerade of undisclosed "vendor purchases" at public yearling auctions — which shadowy practice lurks, in his estimation, behind as many as 20 per cent of sales.

It is common knowledge in the bloodstock world that some top vendors enlist satellite interests or agents to inflate the value of yearlings, especially those by a new stallion for whom they wish to create a vogue. Setting a trend will have paid for itself by the time the young horse in question resurfaces to race under its breeder's own umbrella.

RICHARD EVANS

Since these phantom sales are particularly potent at the elite end of the market, Elwes clearly believes that they lend it a veneer of fake gold — as well as coating a corresponding layer of grime over its integrity.

"The practice of vendors buying back their own horses without disclosing it is most unsatisfactory, particularly as it sends totally the wrong message about the real financial health of the market," he said. "It is illegal in the art market but, unfortunately, it is now common practice, encouraged by the introduction of sales races." (These, lavishly supported by the sponsoring sales company, are restricted to graduates of a particular auction.)

He added: "When this practice is used to boost the value of offspring of stallions, many of which are foreign-owned, I have to say I'm unhappy. I urge the sales companies to declare vendor purchases, however they may be disguised, so that we can get a proper valuation of the market."

Elaborating his comments, Elwes said: "It is obvious that certain foreign and Irish stallion owners are well aware of the attractions of promoting the progeny of their new, up-and-coming stallions."

He added: "It's a fundamental point. I think it's wrong you can have a non-sale recorded as a sale. I have no problem with the concept of buybacks, but I do with the fact that they're undisclosed. My guess is that 15 to 20 per cent of the horses at the main yearling sales in this country are subject to undisclosed buybacks."

Elwes, soon to become the TBA's first nominated director to the British Horseracing Board (BHB), is anxious that the outside world is not deceived that headlines of record-breaking purchases betoken a thriving market. He will urge the BHB to persuade the Government otherwise, and to press for concessions in response to tax incentives available to Irish stallion owners.

"They must surely realise that they're losing huge amounts of revenue through the migration of mares to Ireland," he said, noting that British breeders last year paid Ir£16.4 million to Irish stallion owners in covering fees alone. "That ignores the keep of mares while at stud in Ireland. I'm afraid this migration will continue until we make it financially viable to stand commercial stallions in this country." As it is, there are only 20 British-based sires standing at a fee of over £10,000 (mostly Arab-owned and supported).

In the long term, however, perhaps the interest of breeders needs to be even more urgently engaged by Anthony Stirk, the veterinary expert who gave a talk on racehorse injury and death in the context of pedigree and upbringing. His warnings about the consequences to the breed, if stallions offering stamina continue to be neglected, were as robust as the resulting thoroughbred would be flimsy.

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

DANOLI, above, will be joining the Irish pilgrimage to Cheltenham this year. The popular 11-year-old has been dogged by injury, but will be among the entries for the Tote Gold Cup at today's noon deadline.

Tom Foley, his trainer, is confident that his charge will be fit to take his place alongside a glittering array of stars, led by the King George VI Chase winner, Teeton Mill, and Florida Pearl in the blue riband event on March 17.

"We've entered him and he'll definitely be there," Foley said. "It's something I'm looking forward to."

Danoli shot to fame when securing victory in the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at the 1994 Cheltenham Festival. But he sustained a serious leg injury when winning the Martell Aintree Hurdle in 1995, and problems since then have made him difficult to train.

But Foley reported: "So far so good with him. He's been ridden out for the last nine days and is fine. The plan is now to go for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown next month and then on to Cheltenham."

Foley believes that Florida Pearl — another likely participant in next month's Hennessy — is the horse to beat at Cheltenham. "He made a silly mistake when he came down last time at Leopardstown and still has a point to prove, but he's still the one as far as I am concerned," he said. "Teeton Mill looked good at Kempton, but I would question the form of some of the horses that finished behind him."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS



Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.45 (1m) 1, **Delight Of Dawn** (S Carson, 11-2); 2, Homestead (6-1); 3, Betaan (14-1). Sharp Scotch 4-1 fav. 12 ran. ½l, 3½l. E Wheeler. Tote: £9.30; £2.50, £2.30, £4.70. DF: £26.20. CSF: £35.89. Tricast: £412.63.

1.15 (1m 5f) 1, **Latin Bay** (G Carter, 14-1); 2, Meradi (9-2 jt-fav); 3, Evezio Rufo (9-2 jt-fav). 14 ran. 5l, 6l. S Williams. Tote: £17.30; £3.70, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £143.70. CSF: £72.49. Tricast: £313.23.

1.45 (6f) 1, **Krystal Max** (Kimberley Hart, evens fav); 2, Speedy Classic (7-4); 3, Best of Our Days (16-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 2¼l. T Barron. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.10. DF: £3.00. CSF: £2.67.

2.15 (5f) 1, **Venika Vitesse** (Kimberley Hart, 33-1); 2, La Piazza (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Pisces Lad (11-4). Barr Beacon (5th) 9-4 jt-fav. 8 ran. ½l, 1½l. T Barron. Tote: £31.80; £8.80, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £48.90. CSF: £96.59.

2.45 (1m) 1, **Pippas Pride** (F Norton, 33-1); 2, Clonoe (8-1); 3, High Noon (3-1 fav). 12 ran. 2l, 3l. M Fetherston-Godley. Tote: £32.80; £12.50, £2.40, £1.40. DF: £95.80. CSF: £275.01. Tricast: £974.56.

3.15 (7f) 1, **Miss Dangerous** (F Norton, 33-1); 2, Roisin Splendour (100-30 fav); 3, Aljo Dancer (11-2). 13 ran. Sh hd, ¾l. M Quinn. Tote: £29.60; £6.90, £1.70, £2.20. DF: £246.20. Trifecta: £1,492.40. CSF: £129.63. Tricast: £885.51.

3.45 (1m 2f) 1, **Chalcedony** (T Sprake, 3-1 fav); 2, Rolling Bio (12-1); 3, Melchik (11-2). 10 ran. ½l, 3l. T Barron. Tote: £4.80; £1.30, £3.90, £1.50. DF: £22.50. CSF: £40.17. Tricast: £182.31.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £16,801.58 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

Placepot: £41.50.

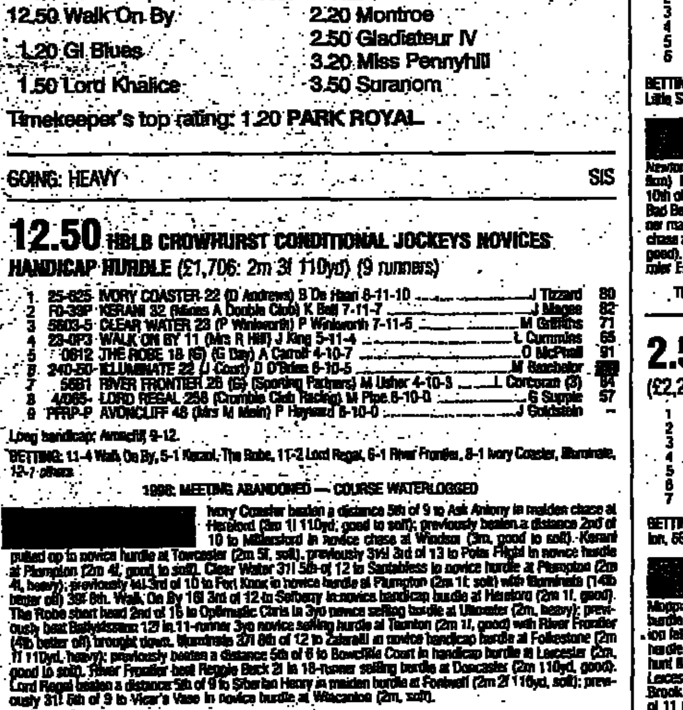
Quadpot: £7.00.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

MUSSELBURGH: Trainers: J Berry, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%; H Johnson, 20 from 93, 21.5%; B Ellison, 4 from 20, 20.0%; J J O'Neill, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Monteith, 12 from 71, 16.9%; C Parker, 7 from 42, 16.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 6 from 41, 14.6%; M Todhunter, 3 from 23, 13.0%. **Jockeys:** P Niven, 12 winners from 63 rides, 19.0%; N Horrocks, 3 from 16, 18.8%; M Bradburne, 5 from 28, 17.9%; A Dobbin, 15 from 85, 17.6%; M Foster, 5 from 30, 16.7%; R Garritty, 9 from 56, 16.1%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: Lord Huntingdon, 14 winners from 65 runners, 21.5%; M Johnston, 44 from 231, 19.0%; M Pipe, 4 from 26, 15.4%; P Haslam, 26 from 173, 15.0%; J Eyre, 26 from 174, 14.9%; T Barron, 6 from 41, 14.6%; C Thornton, 11 from 79, 13.9%. **Jockeys:** W Ryan, 12 winners from 66 rides, 18.2%; P Bradley, 5 from 30, 16.7%; O Pears, 7 from 44, 15.9%; D Sweeney, 16 from 112, 14.3%; T McLaughlin, 19 from 138, 13.8%; Dane O'Neill, 15 from 109, 13.8%; C Lowther, 18 from 133, 13.5%.

[redacted]



THUNDERER

12.50 Walk On By. 1.20 Gi Blues. 1.50 Lord Khalice. 2.20 Montroe. 2.50 Gladiateur IV. 3.20 Miss Pennyhill. 3.50 Suranom.

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.20 PARK ROYAL.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

12.50 HBLB CROWHURST CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,706: 2m 3f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 25-625 IVORY COASTER 22 (D Andrews) B De Haan 8-11-10 J Tizzard 80
2 F0-39P KERANI 32 (Mines A Double Club) K Bell 7-11-7 J Magee 82
3 5603-5 CLEAR WATER 23 (P Winkworth) P Winkworth 7-11-5 M Griffiths 71
4 23-0P3 WALK ON BY 11 (Mrs R Hill) J King 5-11-4 L Cummins 65
5 0612 THE ROBE 18 (G) (G Day) A Carroll 4-10-7 D McPhail 91
6 240-50 ILLUMINATE 22 (J Court) D O'Brien 8-10-5 M Batchelor
7 5681 RIVER FRONTIER 26 (G) (Sporting Partners) M Usher 4-10-3 L Corcoran (8) 94
8 4/065- LORD REGAL 258 (Crombie Club Racing) M Pipe 8-10-0 G Supple 57
9 PFRP-P AVONCLIFF 48 (Mrs M Mein) P Hayward 8-10-0 J Goldstein —

Long handicap: Avoncliff 9-12.

BETTING: 11-4 Walk On By, 5-1 Kerani, The Robe, 11-2 Lord Regal, 6-1 River Frontier, 8-1 Ivory Coaster, Illuminate, 12-1 others.

1998: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

[redacted] Ivory Coaster beaten a distance 5th of 9 to Ask Antony in maiden chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously beaten a distance 2nd of 10 to Millersford in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good to soft). Kerani pulled up in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft), previously 31½l 3rd of 13 to Polar Flight in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to soft). Clear Water 31l 5th of 12 to Santabless in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy); previously 14l 3rd of 10 to Fort Knox in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft) with Illuminate (14lb better off) 39l 8th. Walk On By 16l 3rd of 12 to Sefbony in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). The Robe short head 2nd of 16 to Optimistic Chris in 3yo novice selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy); previously beat Ballykissann 12l in 11-runner 3yo novice selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) with River Frontier (4lb better off) brought down. Illuminate 37l 8th of 12 to Zaiareli in novice handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy); previously beaten a distance 5th of 8 to Bowcliffe Court in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). River Frontier beat Reggie Buck 2l in 18-runner selling hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Lord Regal beaten a distance 5th of 9 to Siberian Henry in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft); previously 31l 5th of 9 to Vicar's Vase in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft).

THE ROBE handled testing conditions well latest and is open to further improvement at this trip

1.20 GODSTONE SELLING HURDLE (£1,467: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 61P-0 MISTER WOODSTICK 55 (D,F) (D & C Clapham) D Duggan 6-11-11 H Oliver (5) —
2 223031 ROUND ROBIN 5 (B,D,S) (Daisy Chain) Mrs A E Johnson 5-11-11 J A McCarthy 74
3 -50-0 WONDERBOY 6 (Come Racing Ltd) J R Poulton 5-11-4 J Magee 44
4 LILY JAQUES 599F (A Coogan) Mrs A E Johnson 5-10-13 Mr V Coogan (7) —
5 05 GI BLUES 18 (A Brown) B Simpson 4-10-6 Mr J Owen (7) 77
6 864 PARK ROYAL 19 (A J Wood) P Butler 4-10-6 M A Fitzgerald
7 F4 MISS SCOOTER 23 (Mr J Procter) M Muggeridge 4-10-1 D Creech (7) 62

BETTING: 5-4 Round Robin, 7-2 Park Royal, 5-1 Miss Scooter, 6-1 Gi Blues, 12-1 Wonderboy, 14-1 Mister Woodstick, 25-1 Lily Jaques.

[redacted] Mister Woodstick beaten a distance last of 16 to Barley Meadow in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Round Robin beat Remember Star 13l in 4-runner selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, heavy); previously 17l 3rd of 10 to Amiflorimenocles in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). Wonderboy 44l 7th of 9 to Spring Up in selling hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, heavy); previously beaten a distance 9th of 11 to Machiavelli in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good). Gi Blues 12l 5th of 16 to Optimistic Chris in 3yo novice selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy); previously 43l 9th of 18 to Mothers Help in 3yo novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft) with Miss Scooter (levels) fell. Park Royal 21l 4th of 18 to Roboant in 3yo novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy); previously 28l 6th of 18 to Cool Performance in 3yo novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). Miss Scooter 20l 4th of 10 to Sadler's Secret in 3yo maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy).

PARK ROYAL can make the most of this drop in class after running well over track and trip last time

1.50 HAXTED NOVICES CHASE (£2,736: 3m) (8 runners)

1 113-22 TRUE FORTUNE 19 (B,D,G,S) (J Miller) V Darnell 9-11-8 J Culloty
2 603-PP BALLEYHARRY 35 (B) (D Dowd) P Winkworth 9-11-4 P Hide —
3 20-P02 BRACKENHEATH 19 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Grist) D Grissell 8-11-4 B Fenton 105
4 030/PP JAKES JUSTICE 22 (D and M Evans) Mrs L Richards 8-11-4 J A McCarthy —
5 23203 KINGDOM OF SHADES 63 (BF,S) (R Ogden) Miss V Williams 9-11-4 R Dunwoody 73
6 -1P56F LORD KHALICE 18 (D,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 8-11-4 R Thornton 85
7 RP/- TEETER THE PEETH 902 (Mrs J Rumford) B Simpson 9-11-4 B Dove (7) —
8 PP/ SHOULDHAVESAIDNO 685 (G Piper) B Simpson 8-10-13 Mr J Owen (7) —

BETTING: 11-10 Kingdom Of Shades, 5-2 True Fortune, 4-1 Brackenheath, 8-1 Lord Khalice, 33-1 others.

[redacted] True Fortune ¾l 2nd of 15 to Celtic Moments in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m, soft); previously 2l 2nd of 6 to Baronspell in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, soft). Brackenheath 22l 2nd of 7 to Marlborough in novice chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy); previously 84l 8th of 11 to Papo Kharisma in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Kingdom Of Shades 8½l 3rd of 5 to Executive King in novice chase at Kempton (3m, soft); previously 47l 5th of 17 to Escartefigue in handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good). Lord Khalice fell in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m, heavy); previously 26l 6th of 9 to Brother Of Iris in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, good).

KINGDOM OF SHADES, formerly a useful hurdler, can step up on the form of his seasonal/chase bow

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
G Hubbard	3	10	30.0	A McCoy	10	37	27.0
N Henderson	5	17	29.4	R Dunwoody	8	32	25.0
G L Moore	11	44	25.0	M Batchelor	4	22	18.2
M Pipe	12	49	24.5	M Fitzgerald	6	33	18.2
J Old	4	21	19.0	C Llewellyn	5	33	15.2
P Hobbs	3	19	15.8	P Hide	5	34	14.7

2.20 SEVENOAKS NOVICES CHASE (£2,684: 2m) (6 runners)

1 /14-12 ROYAL TOAST 23 (D,S) (Mrs C Edwards) N Henderson 7-11-10 M A Fitzgerald
2 6234/F LITTLE SHEFFORD 53 (F) (J Liddiard) M Meggendge 7-11-3 B Clifford —
3 11-506 MONTROE 32 (G,S) (Miss M Tulnell) B Rowe 7-11-3 R Dunwoody —
4 /0P14- SIBERIAN HENRY 238 (BF,S) (C Talecon) B Smart 6-11-3 C Llewellyn —
5 F2P1-4 GUIGNOL DU COCHET 215 (Guignol Partnership) Mrs L Richards 5-11-0 J A McCarthy —
6 112-15 TRESOR DE MAI 81 (B,G,S) (Joe Moran) M Pipe 5-11-0 A P McCoy —

BETTING: 7-4 Tresor De Mai, 9-4 Royal Toast, 5-2 Montroe, 12-1 Guignol Du Cochet, 14-1 Siberian Henry, 33-1 Little Shefford.

[redacted] Royal Toast 14l 2nd of 4 to Potentate in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, heavy); previously beat Kingsfold Pet 9l in 8-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft). Little Shefford fell in novice handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 110yd, soft), previously 20l 4th of 7 to Yubralee in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). Montroe 38l 6th of 11 to Papo Kharisma in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good), previously 55l 10th of 13 to Lady Rebecca in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). Siberian Henry 8½l 4th of 12 to Bad Bertrich in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously beat Bartholomew Fair 9l in 9-runner maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft). Guignol Du Cochet beaten a distance 4th of 7 to Gatz'art in chase at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd, soft), previously beat Grand Ipo 2½l in 10-runner chase at Fontainebleau (2m 3f, good). Tresor De Mai 18l 5th of 8 to Indian River in chase at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd, soft); previously beat Premier Ecles 3l in 7-runner chase at Segre (2m 3f, good to soft).

TRESOR DE MAI gets the vote in receipt of a useful weight-for-age allowance from Royal Toast

2.50 HORLEY MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,257: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 000/P- BABY LANCASTER 314 (M Griffin) M Griffin 8-11-7 M Griffiths (5) —
2 33 GLADIATEUR IV 8 (Cobra Partnership) P Hobbs 5-11-7 R Dunwoody
3 TALK OF A NOSE (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-7 R Thornton —
4 0F TELLION 32 (Come Racing Ltd) J Jenkins 5-11-7 J Osborne 14
5 0- UNDER THE CARPET 329 (W Stott) J Old 7-11-7 T J Murphy —
6 232354 GALIX 28 (BF) (C, B & R Batterham) M Pipe 5-11-2 A P McCoy 63
7 P05 RED BROOK LAD 26F (Miss M Devine) S Dow 4-10-9 M A Fitzgerald 46

BETTING: 4-5 Gladiateur IV, 11-4 Galix, 6-1 Red Brook Lad, 10-1 Under The Carpet, 16-1 Talk of A Nose, 33-1 Tellion, 66-1 Baby Lancaster.

[redacted] Baby Lancaster pulled up in maiden hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm); previously 64l 10th of 14 to Easter Ross in national hunt flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to firm). Gladiateur IV 25l 3rd of 13 to Young Moppe in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 8½l 3rd of 14 to Perfect Venue in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Talk Of A Nose Nearly A Nose gelding out of Dellfane Supreme. Tellion fell in maiden hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good), previously 41l 10th of 13 to Forever Noble in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). Under The Carpet 25l 10th of 24 to Indian Spring in national hunt flat race at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Galix 19l 4th of 10 to Tempestuous Lady in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft); previously 5½l 5th of 14 to Royal Hoc in hurdle at Enghien (2m 3f, good to soft). Red Brook Lad 24l 5th of 18 to Mothers Help in 3yo novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft), previously 88l 8th of 11 to Dangerous Precedent in 3yo novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft).

GLADIATEUR IV has shown a fair measure of ability his two hurdle starts and promises to take the beating

3.20 ROCK SAINT CHALLENGE TROPHY (HANDICAP CHASE) (£3,543: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 0P12-6 OWENSWEE 25 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Purdie) R Alner 8-11-11 A P McCoy
2 F/01-3 STRONG STUFF 23 (F,G) (M Chavoush) M Pitman 9-11-4 J Osborne 78
3 P1-P44 ANOTHER DEADLY 51 (D,S) (P O'Connor) T Casey 12-11-3 T J Murphy 66
4 45-341 MISS PENNYHILL 11 (G) (A Sadik) A Sadik 6-10-12 Guy Lewis (3) 81
5 P5UP-4 BENJAMIN LANCASTER 9 (G,S) (M Griffin) M Griffin 15-10-4 M Griffiths (5) 67

BETTING: 11-10 Miss Pennyhill, 13-8 Strong Stuff, 11-2 Owenswee, 14-1 Another Deadly, 25-1 Benjamin Lancaster.

[redacted] Owenswee beaten a distance last of 6 to Kadou Nonantais in handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, soft), previously 8l 2nd of 15 to False Tail in hunter chase at Chepstow (3m, good). Strong Stuff 11l 3rd of 10 to Sharagone Warrior in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, heavy), previously beat Kinlogh Gale a distance in 9-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, good). Another Deadly beaten a distance 4th of 6 to Rightsaidfred in handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously 53l 4th of 6 to Chilton Set in handicap chase at Kempton (3m, soft). Miss Pennyhill beat Hello Me Man 9l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good), previously 24l 4th of 5 to Mangliano in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Benjamin Lancaster beaten a distance last of 4 to Storm Damage in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft).

STRONG STUFF should do better for his reappearance outing and has claims off the same mark

3.50 SOUTHERN COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,710: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 4-4321 TICKERTY'S GIFT 19 (CD,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 9-12-0 M Batchelor (5) 100
2 40350/ TIM 868 (D,F,S) (P Piper) J Jenkins 9-11-9 J Osborne —
3 3/0309 SHOOFK 5 (S) (S Devine) S Dow 8-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 87
4 1144 TAKE A TURN 25 (F) (Sheet & Roll Convertors) Miss G Kelleway 4-11-4 G Bradley 94
5 0215/2 SURANOM 28 (D,F) (Mrs D Haine) Mrs D Haine 7-10-10 J Culloty
6 /53-25 GRAND CRU 18 (Alan Spargo Ltd) Toolmakers) J Cullinan 8-10-9 Mr J Owen (7) 103
7 6-0452 DERISBAY 23 (B,F,G,S) (Miss J Self) J Bridger 11-10-0 L Cummins (3) 105

Long handicap: Derisbay 9-13.

BETTING: 7-4 Tickerty's Gift, 4-1 Shoofk, 5-1 Suranom, 6-1 Derisbay, 7-1 Take A Turn, 8-1 Grand Cru, 20-1 Tim.

[redacted] Tickerty's Gift beat Fenians neck in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy); previously 1½l 2nd of 5 to Siren Song in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft). Tim 39l 13th of 24 to Pharanear in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good to firm), previously 10l 5th of 9 to Lessons Lass in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft). Shoofk beaten a distance 3rd of 5 to Dark Kestrel in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, heavy); previously 49l 8th of 9 to Bold Gait in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Take A Turn 29l 4th of 9 to Hors La Loi III in hurdle grade 2 at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft), previously 2½l 4th of 9 to Navarre Samson in juvenile novice hurdle grade 2 at Wetherby (2m, good). Suranom 2l 2nd of 7 to Bowcliffe Court in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft), previously 60l 5th of 10 to Antiguan Flyer in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm). Grand Cru 12l 5th of 17 to Andy's Lad in amateur novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft); previously 6l 2nd of 14 to Rush in claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Derisbay 2½l 2nd of 7 to Nassau Dore in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (3m 1f, heavy), previously 28l 5th of 6 to Millmount in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to soft).

TICKERTY'S GIFT goes particularly well here and can follow up his recent course-and-distance strike

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Musselburgh: 1.10 Dublin River, Won't Forget Me. **Lingfield:** 1.50 True Fortune. **Wolverhampton:** 1.00 Astral Invader, 4.00 Melt The Clouds.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER

12.40 FINISTERRE (nap). 1.10 Rallegio. 1.40 Mr Cavallo. 2.10 Marble Man. 2.40 Pontevedra. 3.10 Owens Quest. 3.40 Nokimover.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 PRESTON TOWER MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,402: 2m) (15 runners)

1 4F4 CINEMA PARADISO 21 N Richards 5-11-8 A Dobbin 51
2 DACOIT 816F K Morgan 5-11-8 Mr R Forristal (5) —
3 32F FINISTERRE 6 (BF) J J O'Neill 6-11-8 R McGrath
4 FOXES TAIL 111F Miss S Hall 5-11-8 R Johnson —
5 P GRASSMAN 6 W Kemp 6-11-8 C McCormack (3) —
6 0P JAVAMAN 36 R Goldie 7-11-8 R Supple —
7 MOONRAKING 68F T Etherington 6-11-8 L Wyer —
8 PERSIAN FAYRE 15F J Berry 7-11-8 B Powell —
9 -22- PHANTOM HAZE 386 C Parker 6-11-8 D Parker —
10 0 RED ARK 36 N Mason 6-11-8 R Guest —
11 22-0 THUNDERHEART 22 R Allan 8-11-8 P Niven 37
12 0 DALTON LADY 61 B Mactaggart 5-11-3 B Storey —
13 FEARLESS BRAVE 53F V Thompson 4-10-10 Mr M Thompson —
14 83 NAJJAR 53 J FitzGerald 4-10-10 R Garritty 48
15 0 MEMPHIS DANCER 8 Miss L Russell 4-10-5 S Durack —

7-4 Finisterre, 4-1 Dacoit, 5-1 Najjar, 8-1 Phantom Haze, Cinema Paradiso, 9-1 others.

1.10 PINKIE HILL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (£2,248: 2m) (11)

1 4-35 RALLEGIO 23 (D,G,S) P Monteith 10-11-11 C McCormack 97
2 5F1 BANDIDA 87 (S) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-6 N Horrocks —
3 221P BATTERY FIRED 74 (G) N Mason 10-11-4 G F Ryan —
4 0423 DUBLIN RIVER 22 (V,BF) J O'Shea 6-11-4 Michael Brennan 72
5 -P40 DURANO 11 (B,D,S) T Easterby 8-11-4 R McGrath
6 0050 NO ANIMOSITY 32 W Kemp 6-11-4 T Hagger (5) —
7 4042 OVERSMAN 21 (B,BF,D,S) J FitzGerald 6-11-4 S Durack 93
8 0-60 LUMBACK LADY 35 B Mactaggart 9-10-13 W Dowling 86
9 P00 ASPRILLA 23 B Ellison 4-10-6 M H Naughton 12
10 0 WON'T FORGET ME 8 (V) I Semple 4-10-6 L Cooper (5) —
11 PP FAIRY THREE 18 K Morgan 4-10-1 N Hannity —

2-1 Durano, 3-1 Rallegio, 7-2 Oversman, 6-1 Dublin River, 14-1 others.

1.40 CARBERRY TOWER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,803: 2m 4f) (9)

1 -241 FEN TERRIER 27 (D,F,G,S) F Murtagh 7-12-0 R Supple 77
2 5113 NOSAM 48 (F,G,S) N Mason 9-11-7 R Guest 97
3 -300 DOUBLE AGENT 22 (D,G,S) H Johnson 6-10-12 D Parker 23
4 55F- GALESHAN 281 N Richards 7-10-9 A Dobbin —
5 0354 MR CAVALLO 8 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 7-10-6 R Johnson 84
6 4204 TRIGGERFISH 22 (D,G) P Monteith 7-10-2 S Taylor 58
7 3570 RUFUS MAJOR 6 M Todhunter 8-10-0 N Horrocks (5)
8 0243 SILVER PEARL 61 J Barclay 8-10-0 C McCormack (3) 101
9 3F06 STRONG MISSION 30 B Mactaggart 8-10-0 B Storey 43

11-4 Fen Terrier, 3-1 Nosam, 9-2 Triggerfish, 7-1 Galeshan, 8-1 Mr Cavallo, 10-1 Double Agent, Silver Pearl, 20-1 others.

2.10 AULD REEKIE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,597: 2m) (7)

1 -F54 MULKEV PRINCE 18 (S) H Johnson 8-12-0 C McCormack (3) 80
2 5304 GOLDEN HELLO 5 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 8-11-6 R Garritty 132
3 5-P3 KNOW-NO-NO 26 (D,F,G,S) A Dickin 10-11-6 B Powell 111
4 541F MARBLE MAN 11 (CD,F,S) M Pell 9-10-8 Mr J Crowley (5) 125
5 -132 BRIAR'S DELIGHT 56 (B,D,F,G,S) R Allan 11-10-7 A Dobbin
6 1421 XAIPETE 11 (D,F,G,S) N Mason 7-10-5 K Johnson 108
7 261P SIGMA RUN 82 (V,D,G) J O'Shea 10-10-0 Michael Brennan 125

5-2 Xaipete, 11-4 Briar's Delight, 4-1 Mulkev Prince, Marble Man, 10-1 Golden Hello, 12-1 Know-No-No, 20-1 Sigma Run.

2.40 MILLER HILL MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,851: 2m 4f) (12)

1 2213 JESSICA ONE 27 (F) Mrs Reveley 8-12-0 M H Naughton (5) 108
2 .553 JESSOLLE 21 (D,F,G) N Richards 7-11-0 A Dobbin 73
3 34-0 ORANGE IMP 35 (G) J FitzGerald 6-10-8 P Ryan (7) 108
4 -565 AFTER GRACE 57 (S) N Mason 9-10-1 K Johnson
5 482- DISTANT HILLS 224 (G) J Dodds 7-10-1 R Johnson 67
6 501U PONTEVEDRA 8 (C,F) K Morgan 6-10-0 Mr R Forristal (5) 113
7 P604 TUDOR GALE 9 J O'Shea 6-10-0 Michael Brennan 95
8 -40U JUST HUSH 42 (S) R Nixon 6-10-0 C McCormack (3) 98
9 4-53 TABRIZ 22 (G) Mrs P Aitson 6-10-0 S Durack 97
10 -000 OUR CAROL 11 F Murtagh 7-10-0 R Supple 76
11 455- RAG DOLL 309 J Howard Johnson 7-10-0 D Parker —
12 460P DOUBLE BUCK 11 (S) W Kemp 7-10-0 B Powell 69

11-4 Pontevedra, 9-2 Jessica One, 7-1 Jessolle, Orange Imp, Distant Hills, 8-1 Tabriz, 10-1 After Grace, 12-1 others.

3.10 MILL LADE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,474: 3m) (10)

1 -32F SON OF IRIS 30 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-12-0 P Niven 121
2 3-33 WEAVER GEORGE 11 (F,G) W Storey 9-11-12 R McGrath 92
3 0-4U ALY DALEY 8 (CD,F,G,S) H Johnson 11-11-8 R Johnson 100
4 U412 MASTER BAVARD 8 (CD,F,G) P Monteith 11-11-2 Mr M Bradburne (3) 117
5 323P PARIAH 23 (G,S) M Todhunter 10-10-8 B Harding 124
6 5530 OWENS QUEST 21 (F,G,S) T Etherington 9-10-0 L Wyer 114
7 43P0 JOHNS THE BOY 20 (D,F,G) N Mason 13-10-0 K Johnson 100
8 4403 D'ARBLAY STREET 11 (B,G,S) W Kemp 10-10-0 S Durack
9 54PP COPPERHURST 6 (G,S) W Kemp 8-10-0 B Powell 114
10 5335 SALEM BEACH 22 (F) M Todhunter 7-10-0 C McCormack (3) 102

9-4 Son Of Iris, 7-2 Master Bavard, 5-1 Aly Daley, 7-1 Weaver George, 8-1 others.

3.40 MUSSELBURGH MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,564: 2m) (15)

1 ANOTHERHANDYMAN J Gledson 5-11-10 K Johnson —
2 ECHO MAN Mrs D Thomson 5-11-10 N Horrocks (5) —
3 GOLDEN DEAL T Etherington 6-11-10 R Garritty —
4 HANDSOME HENRY N Richards 6-11-10 T Hagger (7) —
5 4- NOKIMOVER 239 J O'Shea 5-11-10 Michael Brennan
6 PERKY BRAVE C Parker 6-11-10 B Storey —
7 0 SECRET SOURCE 214 K Morgan 5-11-10 Mr R Forristal (5) —
8 WOTHERTON S Kettlewell 5-11-10 G Lee —
9 00-0 JACK'S JOKER 20 J Charlton 5-11-5 B Harding 29
10 0- MILL GIRL 263 R Thomson 6-11-5 D Parker —
11 BARNEY KNOWS M Pell 4-10-12 F Leahy —
12 BLUE MOON C Thornton 4-10-12 M Foster —
13 MR LAMB Miss S Hall 4-10-12 R Johnson —
14 TERRAZZO J FitzGerald 4-10-12 P Niven —
15 EARLY DAISY R Allan 4-10-7 A Dobbin —

9-4 Terrazzo, 7-2 Nokimover, 6-1 Handsome Henry, 8-1 Perky Brave, 10-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.00 Theatre Magic. 1.30 Mutasawwar. 2.00 Monchania. 2.30 Violet. 3.00 Baron De Pichon. 3.30 Alsahib. 4.00 Burning. 4.30 Trojan Girl.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.00 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,497: 6f) (9 runners)

101 000- TAKHLID 71 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-11-7 Miss R Clark 3
102 134- THEATRE MAGIC 15 (C,D) D Shaw 6-11-7 Mrs S Bosley 6
103 343- GARNOCK VALLEY 19 (D,G) J Berry 9-11-1 Miss B Kendal (5) 9
104 000- CHALLIZ 215 K Burke 5-10-9 J P McNamara 1
105 200- BASHFUL BRAVE 111 (D,F) J Eyre 8-9-12 Miss D Jones 7
106 460- ASTRAL INVADER 28 (B,D,S) M Saunders 7-9-10 A Evans (3) 5
107 300- ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 19 (CD,F,G,S) D Burker 7-9-9 Mrs C Williams (3) 2
108 000- MARTINDALE 54 (D,G) R Bastiman 6-9-6 D H Dunsdon (5) 4
109 000- BACKHANDER 118 M Waring 7-9-3 Mrs C Dunwoody (7) 8

7-4 Theatre Magic, 4-1 Garnock Valley, 9-2 Takhlid, 7-1 Bashful Brave, 10-1 others.

1.30 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,489: 6f) (9)

201 002- MUTASAWWAR 11 (D,S) M Saunders 5-11-7 N Fehily (3) 3
202 000- YOUNG BIGWIG 36 (C,D,S) D Chapman 5-11-7 Miss R Clark 6
203 441- MARY JANE 15 (C,D,F) J Berry 4-11-2 Miss B Kendal (5) 7
204 510- SILK COTTAGE 26 (B,C,F) R Bastiman 7-11-1 Miss R Bastiman (7) 2
205 04-5 PRESENT 'N CORRECT 4 (F) J Bradley 6-9-13 Miss C Bryan (5) 9
206 660- LITTLE IBNR 25 (CD,F) P Evans 8-9-10 A Evans (3) 4
207 d4-2 BAPTISMAL ROCK 4 A Newcombe 5-9-9 Miss C Hannaford (7) 8
208 040- PALACEGATE GOLD 30 (D,G,S) J Long 10-9-4 T Waters (7) 5
209 006- FLYING TOUCH 284 N Littmoden 4-9-3 J Tyler-Morris (5) 1

3-1 Mutasawwar, 7-2 Present 'n Correct, 4-1 Baptismal Rock, 5-1 Mary Jane, 6-1 Silk Cottage, 10-1 Little Ibnr, 14-1 Palacegate Gold, 20-1 others.

2.00 BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (Div I: £1,506: 1m 1f 79yd) (9)

301 020- ROFFEY SPINNEY 35 (F,S) J Cullinan 5-9-5 B Smith (7) 2
302 .00- GAD YAKOUN 19 M Meagher 6-8-13 J Quinn 3
303 240- HYPERICO 19 Miss S Wilton 5-8-13 S Whitworth 6
304 .20- SOLDIER COVE 18 (CD,S) D Burchell 9-9-13 Dean McKeown 5
305 600- DORRINGTON 18J B Baugh 4-9-12 A Culhane 7
306 353- PORTITE SOPHIE 11 (C,D,S) M Brittain 8-8-8 C Lowther 4
307 640- KAPEFREE KATIE 30 J Given 4-8-7 J Fanning 8
308 600- MONCHANIA 214 (C) J Spearing 4-8-7 S Righton (7) 9
309 004- PURVEE 19 P Dalton 4-8-7 L Charnock 1

3-1 Portite Sophie, 4-1 Roffey Spinney, 9-2 Hyperico, 5-1 Monchania, 7-1 others.

2.30 TEMPEST STAKES (£2,853: 1m 100yd) (13)

401 400- ALMAZHAR 189 J Eyre 4-9-12 C Lowther 5
402 BRUFF STREAM M Johnston 5-9-12 J Fanning 9
403 040- DON'T WORRY MIKE 27J F Bridgwater 5-9-12 V Slattery 10
404 000- RUBAMMA 51J D Murray Smith 4-9-12 Dane O'Neill 1
405 SEVEN O SEVEN 56J P Cundell 6-9-12 S Whitworth 13
406 000- SOLDIER 47 R Marvin 4-9-12 T G McLaughlin 11
407 0- TOREERO 193 B Curley 4-9-12 J P Spencer (3) 4
408 000- TWO ON THE BRIDGE 85J J Given 5-9-12 A Culhane 2
409 5- AIR OF ESTEEM 212 P Haslam 3-8-6 Dale Gibson 7
410 05- DOVEDON TIMES 19 H Alibary 3-8-6 R Price 8
411 000- WILD TIMES 179 E Wheeler 3-8-6 S Carson (7) 12
412 0- DISTANT BELLE 32 N Littmoden 3-8-1 J Quinn 3
413 423- VIOLET 28 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-1 A Nicholls (5) 6

8-11 Violet, 5-1 Bruff Stream, 7-1 Toreero, 8-1 Dovedon Times, 10-1 others.

3.00 WILLIAM HILL (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (3-Y-O: £5,919: 1m 100yd) (8)

501 14-3 MISS TAKE 5 (V,CD) P Evans 9-7 T G McLaughlin 8
502 10-6 SUNSET LADY 2 (D,F,G,S) P Haslam 9-7 P Goode (7) 7
503 010- JELLYBEEN 28 (C) Miss G Kelleway 9-6 S Drowne 3
504 213- LOVE DIAMONDS 15 (BF,D) M Johnston 8-13 R Fitzpatrick (5) 2
505 001- WINDSHIFT 36 (D) D Shaw 8-10 A Clark 4
506 241- TOP FIT 15 (B,D) W Haggas 8-8 W Ryan 1
507 00-4 ULTRA CALM 4 P Haslam 8-5 L Charnock 5
508 02-2 BARON DE PICHON 4 (BF) N Littmoden 8-5 J Quinn 6

3-1 Love Diamonds, 4-1 Jellybeen, 9-2 Top Fit, Windshift, Baron De Pichon, 9-1 Miss Take, 12-1 Sunset Lady, Ultra Calm.

3.30 HURRICANE HANDICAP (£3,583: 1m 4f) (8)

601 100/ COUNT BASIE 908 (F) J Eyre 6-9-11 C Lowther 5
602 /11- MANILENO 6J (D,F,S) Miss S Wilton 5-9-9 S Whitworth 6
603 14-2 ALSAHIB 4 (BF,CD) W Muir 6-9-7 Martin Dwyer 3
604 05-1 DANCING RIO 4 (D,G,S) P Haslam 4-9-7 (6ex) M Tebbutt 1
605 120/ TWILIGHT SLEEP 440J (CD,G) C Nelles 7-9-6 Dane O'Neill 4
606 436- MAZEED 16 (V,C,F,S) P Evans 6-9-1 A Culhane 2
607 413- FAILED TO HIT 11 (V,C,D,F) N Littmoden 6-8-11 J Tate 7
608 310- SIOUX 26 (CD) C Thornton 5-8-7 Dean McKeown 8

5-2 Dancing Rio, 3-1 Alsahib, 9-2 Failed To Hit, 5-1 Manileno, 7-1 others.

4.00 BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (Div II: £1,497: 1m 1f 79yd) (8)

1 015- BURNING 11 (C,F) N Littmoden 7-9-5 T G McLaughlin 3
2 5/6- ALLEZ CYRANO 11 (C,F,S) D Burchell 8-8-13 S Drowne 4
3 500- CLASSIC COLOURS 21 G Yardley 6-8-13 V Slattery 5
4 520/ MELT THE CLOUDS 18J (B) M Pipe 6-8-13 Dane O'Neill 8
5 000- MERCURY 19 B Baugh 6-8-13 Dale Gibson 7
6 30-0 ZAHRAN 4 (D,F) J Bradley 8-8-13 C Carver (7) 1
7 30-2 AREISH 4 (C) J Balding 6-8-8 J Edmunds 2
8 400- FRANCESCA'S FOLLY 25 (F,S) C Popham 4-8-7 A Clark 6

5-2 Burning, 3-1 Areish, 6-1 Allez Cyrano, Melt The Clouds, 7-1 others.

4.30 MONSOON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,775: 5f) (8)

1 132- THORNABY GIRL 8 (D,G) T Barron 9-7 O Pears 6
2 012- TROJAN GIRL 11 (BF,CD) N Littmoden 9-1 T G McLaughlin 7
3 000- OH I SAY 81 (D,F,S) Miss G Kelleway 8-12 S Whitworth 3
4 300- AMBER JASMINE 83 P Haslam 8-11 P Goode (7) 8
5 505- LEGAL VENTURE 15 (V,D,F) N Littmoden 8-10 R Thomas (7) 1
6 603- LADYCAKE 15 (D,G) J Berry 8-7 P Bradley (7) 5
7 054- SHARP RHYTHM 71 M Johnston 8-1 J Fanning 4
8 346- NICHOLAS MISTRESS 15 P Evans 7-12 C Cogan (7) 2

3-1 Thornaby Girl, 9-2 Trojan Girl, 5-1 Amber Jasmine, 11-2 Ladycake, 7-1 others.

FOOTBALL

Money-men hound Bassett out of office

Rob Hughes says firing the Forest manager is easier than replacing him

FIRING Dave Bassett in the first week of January is akin to dismissing the director of a poorhouse because the children appear less well-nourished, less sure of their social standing, than royalty.

It is bleak midwinter by the Trent. Supporters are understandably deeply unhappy with a team that has gone 17 FA Carling Premiership matches without a win and succumbed to struggling Portsmouth in the FA Cup. But, in reality, they are not facing up to the fact that their club was not only attempting to live beyond its means, but also that the plc was expecting to make a profit from it.

That is the wider fool's game that has engulfed the Premiership, where less than a handful of mega-rich clubs are drawing away from the others and the remainder are, relatively speaking, in the poverty trap of the highest-spending league in the world.

Bassett has proven many times that he is a second-half man in that, come the latter part of the season, he wills players to Houdini acts. He did it with Sheffield United and Wimbledon, he figured in six promotions and countless acts of brinkmanship against relegation. He is the eternal shoestring manager.

He might, at 54, have exhausted the remarkable passions that his career has demonstrated, but surely Nigel Wray, chairman of the plc, and Irving Scholar, the director of football, are not the men to judge his energy levels. They are absentee landlords, Wray more involved with Saracens rugby club, Scholar a resident of Monaco.

Over the years Bassett had shown himself to be one of the most honest and ebullient managers. An England amateur international, his forte became making professional players more professional, and anyone who witnessed him on the Sheffield United training ground, breathing conviction into indifferent footballers, knows that it is easier to sack him than replace him.

Of course, the paltry crowd of barely 10,000 at the City Ground on Saturday vented their wrath on the manager. Some of those fans had known the achievements of Brian Clough, who brought to them the European Cup in successive seasons. Living up to Clough's legacy was, and is, beyond Nottingham Forest.

Frank Clark, his prodigy, flirted with it, failed and left. Bassett, bringing Forest up from the first division last summer, must have known instantly that they had not paid the price of admission to the Premiership. Rather than improve the team, Bassett returned from holiday to find that the club, the plc, had sold Kevin Campbell to Trabzonspor, of Turkey.

That split a partnership between Campbell and Pierre van Hooijdonk which had netted 52 of Forest's 82 league goals in the lower division. Van Hooijdonk, abjectly unprofessional, simply withdrew his labour. Maybe he was justified in asserting that Forest lacked the ambition to stay in the top flight, but his action destroyed team morale and began there and then to destroy the work of Bassett.

Yet still the club sold, allowing Colin Cooper to return to Middlesbrough, thus weakening their defence. To say that Bassett attempted to replace those players with inferior men is like sending out into the market a man with holes in his purse and expecting him to bring home pearls.

Dave Bassett, in the past, could do it. Peter Reid, with Sunderland, can do it. But there are very, very few who, by dint of their own personality, their almost inexhaustible passion, can keep raising teams to be greater than the sum of their parts. Rumour has it that Ron Atkinson is next for the job. The fans crave the return of Stuart Pearce. Who knows, the absentee landlords may even bring on Clough … that is Nigel Clough, not, alas, the original.

Dismissing the manager when all around the club is sinking is the roulette-wheel course of the desperate club proprietor. It is easier than accepting that somebody has to be the loser and that the ever-increasing gap in English football predetermines that, nine times out of ten, it is the promoted sides.

HARRY'S GAME

1944: Born September 4 in Wembley
1973: Captains Walton & Hersham to victory in Amateur Cup final against Slough
1974: Joins Wimbledon, then in Southern League
1981: Succeeds Dario Gradi as manager of Wimbledon, now in third division.
1983-84: Fourth-division title follows relegation. Agrees to become Crystal Palace manager but changes his mind within a week and stays at Plough Lane.
1986: Wins promotion to old first division.
1987-88: Joins Watford but within half a season moves to Sheffield United
1989-90: Successive promotions take United back into first division
1994: Relegated from Premier League
1995: Leaves Bramall Lane on December 12 by mutual agreement
1996: Joins Crystal Palace as manager
1997: Resigns to become general manager of Nottingham Forest and later manager

DAVID TYRRELL/ALLSPORT



Bassett manages a smile for journalists just before his departure from the City Ground

Ferguson faces six weeks on sidelines

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

THERE was a degree of circumstantial evidence in support of Ruud Gullit's claims of a Newcastle United curse last night, when it emerged that Duncan Ferguson, the club's £8 million striker, had undergone surgery on his injured groin. Initial estimates suggest Gullit will be without his preferred attacking partnership for up to six weeks.

A catalogue of injury and illness has ensured that Ferguson has played just one complete game alongside Alan Shearer since signing from Everton two months ago. He limped out of Newcastle's defeat away to Liverpool nine days ago and is unlikely to return to the side until the middle of next month.

A more permanent departure could be imminent in the shape of Philippe Albert, the former Belgium international, who expressed his dissatisfaction with reserve-team football yesterday. Bradford City will head the queue for the 31-year-old central defender should Gullit deem him surplus to requirements.

Gullit could find himself short of central defenders should Newcastle fail to initiate contract negotiations with Steve Howey. While the club have made contact with the player, an offer has not as yet been forthcoming.

The future of Portsmouth is once more in doubt after the club's parent company, Blue Star Garages, was served with a winding-up order. The construction firm, Try Build, lodged papers with the High Court demanding payment of the £435,000 owed for the completion of the KJC Stand, delaying the proposed £4 million takeover by a consortium fronted by Warren Smith, the businessman.

Derby County have failed to overturn the three-match ban imposed on Paulo Wanchope, their Costa Rica striker, for his recent dismissal against Middlesbrough, while Patrick Vieira must serve a similar ban for being sent off away to Charlton Athletic, the Football Association ruled after reviewing video evidence yesterday.

Liverpool hope to finalise the signing of Frode Kippe, the Norwegian teenager, today. Kippe, 19, the Lillestrom centre back, underwent a medical yesterday with a view to a £700,000 deal. Lee Sharpe yesterday became David Platt's first signing as Sampdoria manager. Sharpe will move from Leeds United on loan until the end of the season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern Section
Second round
Scunthorpe v Carlisle

Tennents Scottish Cup
Second-round replay
Clyde v Spartans (8.0)

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second-round replay: Romford v Bishop's Stortford. **Third round:** Brighton v Coventry, Northampton v Chelsea; Stoke v York, West Bromwich v Nottingham Forest. **Third-round replays:** Everton v Manchester Utd; Walsall v Tottenham.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference: Huddersfield v Halifax (12 0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton v Watford (2 0), Gillingm v Millwall (2.0), Ipswich v Portsmouth (7 0); Southampton v Queens Park Rangers, Tottenham Hotspur v Brentford (2.0), West Ham United v Peterborough (7 45)
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa v Manchester Utd (7 0), Leeds v Birmingham City (7.0). **First division:** Barnsley v Manchester City (7 0), Burnley v Sheffield Wednesday (7 15), Port Vale v Middlesbrough (7 0). **Second division:** Scarborough v Wrexham (2.0); Shrewsbury v Notts County (7 0), Stockport v Lincoln (at Hyde Utd FC, 7 0). **Third division:** Chester v Hull (2 0), Hartlepool v Wigan (7.0)

RUGBY UNION
Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Wasps v Saracens (8 0)
Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup
First round, second leg
Leicester (5) v Rugby (8)

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third round: Preston 2 Arsenal 4 (Arsenal away to Wolverhampton)
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Hamilton v Clydebank.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton 0 West Bromwich 3.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Shrewsbury 2 Lincoln 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Nashville 2 Anaheim 1, Boston 5 Calgary 1; Carolina 4 Ottawa 4 New York Rangers 4 San Jose 3; Toronto 5 Tampa Bay 4 (OT). St Louis 4 Vancouver 0; Colorado 4 Montreal 3

MOTOR RALLYING

MOROCCO: Dakar rally: Fifth stage: Cars: 1, K Shinozuka (Japan) and H Magne (Fr) (Mitsubishi) 6hr 14min 32sec; 2, M Prieto (Sp) and D Seneys (Fr) (Mitsubishi) at 14 54; 3, J (Ger) Kleinschmidt and T Thorner (Ger) (Mitsubishi) at 16 19; 4, J Louis Schlesser (Fr) and P Monnet (Fr) (Schlesser) at 19 50; 5, J M Serva (Sp) and T Delli-Zotti (Fr) (Schlesser) at 20:26. **Motorbikes:** 1, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) 6hr 14min 59sec; 2, H Kinigadner (Austria, KTM) at 19sec; 3, R Sainct (Fr, BMW) at 25; 4, O Gallardo (Sp, BMW) at 1 59; 5, A Cox (SA KTM) at 2 06. **Overall positions: Cars:** 1 Kleinschmidt and Thorner 14hr 35min 38sec; 2, Serva and Delli-Zotti at 10:13; 3, Schlesser and Monnet at 11 59. **Motorbikes:** 1, Gallardo 14hr 32min 02sec; 2, Sainct at 22sec; 3 Cox at 3 36.

SKIING

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia: Men's World Cup giant slalom: 1, P Holzer (It) 2min 14 91sec; 2, C Mayer (Austria) 2 15 15; 3, H Knauss (Austria) 2 15 22; 4, B Raich (Austria) 2 15 45; 5, J Chenal (Fr) 2 15.85.

SQUASH

SHEFFIELD: British Junior Open: Boys under-19 (Drysdale Cup): Quarter-finals: Ong Beng Hee (Malaysia) bt K Darwish (Egypt) 9-4, 9-2, 9-3; P Barker (Essex) bt M Kader (Egypt) 9-2, 3-9, 3-9, 9-5, 9-6, N Matthew (Yorkshire) bt M Abbas (Egypt) 9-4 9-6 9-3 A Whipp (Cheshire) bt W H El Hindi (Egypt) 9-6, 1-0 (ret sick). **Under-17: Quarter-finals:** A Manso (Sp) bt C Gallard (Kent) 9-1, 9-2, 9-4, J Willstrop (Yorkshire) bt M Iskandar (Malaysia) 9-4, 9-2 9-1; H Seestaller (Ger) bt S de Liema (Can) 9-5, 8-10, 4-9, 10-8, 9-1 G Gaultier (Fr) bt G Webster (Hampshire) 9-2, 9-1, 9-6. **Semi-finals:** Willstrop bt Manso 1-9, 9-5, 9-3 9-1. **Under-15: Quarter-finals:** Y El Halaby (Egypt) bt A Flathers (Yorkshire) 6-3, 9-7, 9-1, 9-0; A Sewilam (Egypt) bt R Hurst (Wales) 9-7, 9 0, 9-1 O Refaat (Egypt) bt M El Ramli (Egypt) 9-3, 9-4, 10-8, D Bennett (Holl) bt E El Hamosani (Egypt) 10-8 9-2 9-4. **Semi-finals:** L Halaby bt Sewilam 2-9, 9-3, 9-3, 6-1 (ret sick); Refaat bt Bennett 9-2, 9-4 9-3. **Under-13: Quarter-finals:** R Ashour (Egypt) bt Shung Hoi Shu (H K) 9-0, 9-5, 9-0; A Seweh (Egypt) bt T Wettel (Egypt) 9-6, 9-4 9-2, Yu Chun Kwong (H K) bt S Stackwell (Nottinghamshire) 9-5 9-1, 9-1. T Richards (Surrey) bt T Phipps (Buckinghamshire) 9-7 9-7, 9-3. **Girls: Under-19: Quarter-finals:** D Lloyd-Walter (Middx) bt A Blake (Ire) 1-9 9-1 9-3, 9-1 E Sado (Sp) bt S Loutas (Ger) 4-9, 3-1, 5-9, 9-3, 10-8; C Beaumont (Yorkshire) bt E Kherallah (Egypt) 6-9, 3-9, 9-3, 10-9, 9-1 V Lankaster (Suffolk) bt D Ting (Malaysia) 9-4, 9-2, 9-2. **Under-17: Quarter-finals:** N David (Malaysia) bt L J Lengthorn (Lancashire) 9-4, 9-5, 9-4, L Hall (US) bt M Zehnder (Switzerland) 9-3, 9-2, 5-9, 9-2; K Rohrmuller (Germany) bt V Botwright (Lancashire) 9-7, 9-2, 4-9, 10-8, J Duncalf (Yorkshire) bt T Chuah (Malaysia) 3-9, 9-10, 10-8, 9-6, 9-2; **Under-15: Quarter-finals:** O El Kawy (Egypt) bt R Loe (Yorkshire) 9-0, 9-1, 9-1. M Quibell (US) bt K Rapisdarda (US) 9-2, 9-2, 9-4 T Fix (Hampshire) bt K McPhee (Yorkshire) 9-1, 9-1, 9-0; A Waters (Middlesex) bt E Goulden (Merseyside) 9-2, 9-4, 9-6. **Under-13: Quarter-finals:** J Chinappa (India) bt K Durand (Derbys) 9-4, 9-0, 9-1; R El Welely (Egypt) bt Tsz Lui So (Hong Kong) 9-7, 9-4, 9-6 S Badr (Egypt) bt G Hall (Wiltshire) 9-3, 9-2, 9-0. J Gates (Sussex) bt N Yehya (Egypt) 9-2, 9-3, 9-3

SWIMMING

BEIJING: World Cup (short-course): Third round: Men: Freestyle: 100m: 1, D Carter (Aus) 49.88. **400m:** 1, J Hoffman (Ger) 3:47.06. **100m backstroke:** 1, L Krayzelburg (US). **Breaststroke: 50m:** 1, Zeng Qiliang (China), 27.83. **200m:** 1, Kryppa (Ger) 2 13 06. **50m butterfly:** 1, Zhang Qiang (China) 23.89. **200m butterfly:** 1, D Sylantev (Ukr) 1 56 51. **Individual medley: 100m:** 1, Ou Yangkunpeng (China) 55.62. **400m:** 1, Xie Xufeng (China) 4 14 32. **Women: Freestyle: 50m:** 1, Na Chao (China) 25.59. **200m: freestyle:** 1, Qian Cam (China) 1:58.29. **800m:** 1, Chen Hua (China) 8 28 31. **Backstroke: 50m:** 1, Lu Donghua (China) 28.79. **200m:** 1, Sletenshyn (Can) 2 10 01. **100m breaststroke:** 1, Li Wei (China) 1 08 60. **100m butterfly:** 1 Pang Ran (China) 1:00.25. **200m individual medley:** 1, Yuan Yi (China) 2 13 14.

TENNIS

DOHA: Qatar Open: First round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, D Vacek (Cz) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-1, 6-2, T Henman (GB) bt S Schalken (Hol) 6-2, 6-3; J Tarango (US) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; Y-E Aynaoui (Mor) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-4, 6-1; F Squillari (Arg) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; C Pioline (Fr) bt J-A Marin (C Rica) 6-3, 6-1; F Vicente (Sp) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-1, 6-2.
PERTH: Hopman Cup: Group A: Slovak Republic 2 Switzerland 1 (Switzerland names first): M Hingis bt K Habsudova 6-0, 6-3; I Heuberger lost to K Kucera 7-5, 4-6, 3-6; Hingis and Heuberger lost to Habsudova and Kucera 4-6, 0-6. **Group B: France 2 South Africa 1** (France names first): S Testud lost to A Coetzer 6-7, 1-6, G Raoux bt W Ferreira 6-3, 7-5; Testud bt Coetzer 7-6, 7-5.
ADELAIDE: Australian men's hardcourt championships: First round: B Black (Zim) bt V Spadea (US) 1-6, 7-6, 6-2, A Pavel (Rom) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-3, 6-3, J Novak (Cz) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-2, 6-1, D Prinosil (Ger) bt A Voinea (Rom) 7-6, 4-6, 6-2; O Gross (Ger) bt M Draper (Aus) 6-2, 6-0; G Pozzi (It) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; S Dosedel (Cz) bt J Courier (US) 7-5, 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt T Suzuki (Japan) 6-3, 6-0, M Chang (US) bt S Grosjean (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.
BRISBANE: Australian women's hardcourt championships: First round: I Spirlea (Rom) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; A Huber (Ger) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-3, 6-2; B Rippner (US) bt L Courtois (Bel) 6-2, 6-4, I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt T Garbin (It) 7-5, 6-2; A Smashnova (Isr) bt L Neiland (Lat) 6-0, 6-3; K Hrdlickova (Cz) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 3-6, 7-6, 6-1; A G Sidot (Fr) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1
AUCKLAND, New Zealand: ABS Bank women's classic: First round: D van Roost (Bel) bt R Grande (It) 7-5, 6-0; L Raymond (US) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 T Snyder (US) bt M Tu (US) 6-4, 6-7, 6-1; C Rubin (US) bt M J Fernandez (US) 7-6, 3-6 6-2; K Brandi (US) bt E Loit (Fr) 6-1, 6-2; S Cacic (US) bt I Selyutina (Kaz) 7-6, 6-3; M Saeki (Japan) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-2, 6-1, K Boogert (Holl) bt S Smith (GB) 6-3, 7-6; L Baker (NZ) bt M Oremans (Holl) 6-3, 6-4.

WORD-W

Answers from page 35

TIMKAT
(b) The Festival of Epiphany in the Ethiopian Church. The clergy form two parallel lines, facing inwards, with drums at the ends. The lines move inwards and outwards in time with the drums, and everybody chants.

SEELING
(a) An old method of obscuring the sight of a hawk by passing threads through the lower eyelids and tying them behind the head.

FEED PREP
(b) A process whereby the residue of crude petrol after atmospheric distillation is distilled again under vacuum.

FISTMELE
(b) In archery, the distance between the handgrip on the belly side and the string when the bow is braced.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 ... Rxh4; 2 gxh4 Qh3; 3 f4 Rxe3 and the white position is in ruins.

TELEVISION CHOICE

The house of the future

Dream House
BBC1, 7.30pm

To the ever-lengthening list of programmes hosted by Carol Vorderman is now added this series on the house of the future. It will take shape over six programmes and seek to dazzle us with its advanced technology and eco-friendliness. It will also seek to show that prefabrication is not a dirty word. The big event tonight is the arrival, in one package, of the bathroom. To prove that it works Vorderman herself is pressed into taking a shower, an event that would probably earn the highest ratings in television history did not the camera step back at the last moment. Presented in a jokey, game show style which sits uncomfortably with its serious content, the series also features high-tech makeovers, other people's dream houses and consumer testing of household gadgets.

Battle of the Sexes
BBC2, 8.00pm

This series on sex in the animal kingdom should find particular favour with women in the South of England. For it is they, according to a survey by the Glasgow Media Group, who most enjoy sex scenes in wildlife programmes. *Battle of the Sexes* starts by looking at the tactics employed by males to attract females. Those who have followed Sir David Attenborough's *oeuvre* may not be too surprised by what they see, but credit to the programme-makers for the breadth of their examples. We see bull bison elephant seals using violence to see off rivals and witness the no less ferocious courtship battles of the stalk-eyed flies. The supreme sacrifice is made by the red-tailed phascogale, a small Australian marsupial. Males become so charged with sex hormones as they compete for females that after mating they die exhausted.

Survival Special: Lion Queen
ITV, 9.00pm

Scarface, so named after a black scar above her right eye, is a lioness with an unruly past. In her youth she was one of Kenya's big bad cats, a killer of sheep and cattle. For such behaviour she could have been shot. But instead of falling to a marksman's bullet, Scarface was taken to Nakuru National Park and installed as the founder member of a new pride. Barbara Tyack's film follows the experiment over two years, during which time Scarface, her daughters and granddaughters extend the family by giving birth to cubs and the pride comes under threat from three young bachelor lions from another part of the park. The most spectacular footage is of lions chasing their favourite meal, the warthog, and of Scarface having to take refuge up a tree to escape the attentions of a herd of buffalo.

Hale and Pace try race commentating in *Jobs for the Boys* (BBC1, 10.15pm)

Jobs for the Boys
BBC1, 10.15pm

You know the idea by now — the comedians Gareth Hale and Norman Pace take on somebody else's job with every chance they will make fools of themselves in front of millions of viewers. Here they have agreed to commentate for BBC Television on one of the most testing of sporting assignments, a horse race. Identifying the runners correctly at every stage is difficult enough, and viewers expect informed analysis as well. True to the format, Hale and Pace seek advice from the professionals and meet nothing but discouragement. Des Lynam says it would take them 15 years to do the job properly, and they have only five months. Eventually we come to a Saturday afternoon on *Grandstand* and it is over to Hale and Pace at Aintree. They look as nervous as most people watching will feel. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Fantasy Evening Concert
Classic FM: 9.00pm

Why fantasy? Simply because the choice of music isn't Classic FM's but that of a listener who is given a once-in-a-lifetime chance to imagine he is a musical impresario with a small fortune to spend on putting together the kind of concert about which he has always dreamt. Tonight's fantasy concert — on records, naturally — is assembled entirely from items selected by Gordon Thompson, of Croydon. His fantasies are not those of other Classic FM faithfuls who prefer to stick to familiar favourites. Tonight's include Boughton's *Symphony No 3*, Finzi's *Cello Concerto* and Parry's *Overture to an Unwritten Tragedy*. Mr Thompson does make one concession to popular taste and it is Butterworth's enchanting *Banks of Green Willow*.

Afternoon Play: A Love Song to the Buses
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Its titular vehicles apart, Sarah Woods's drama-documentary has nothing to do with the Flanders and Swann ditty about the London omnibus. Woods has written a highly complex account of a journey through the mind of a victim of Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. The actual voice of Dimitri, the autistic savant, is complemented by two actors (Victoria Worsley and David Reubin) as his inner voices. The three of them interact with each other as Dimitri, trying to give his life some semblance of purpose, draws obsessively on the timetables and routes of the local bus company. His state of mind will be better understood if you have seen the film *Rain Man* in which Dustin Hoffman played an autistic savant. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Kevin Greening **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Gilles Peterson. **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** The Andy Peebles Soul Show **10.00** Route 66 Revisited (4/7) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Lynn Parsons **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Annie Webster **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey n **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of the night's action, featuring commentary, reports and goal news. Plus, the National Lottery draw **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live. News and topical discussion, with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Bobby Hain **7.30** Harriet Scott **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.00am Bill Overton & Sally Meen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Anne Raeburn **4.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: Night At the Ford **7.30** Meridian Live **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Westway **8.30** Everywoman **9.00** News; (648 only) News in German **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** The Farming World **9.30** Britain Now **9.45** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** One Planet **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** News **12.05** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Global Wildlife **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.00** News; (648 only) News in German **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Performance **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** News **4.15** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Insight; (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** The Works; (648 only) News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause For Thought **7.30** Multitrack: X-Press **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Insight **10.45** Sports Round-Up **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack: X-Press **12.00am** Newsdesk **12.30** From Our Own Correspondent **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Omnibus **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Meridian Books **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Round-Up **3.30** Top Brian **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour, and favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. D'Indy (Symphonie sur un Chant Montagnard Francais in G) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Parry (Overture to an Unwritten Tragedy); Gerald Finzi (Cello Concerto); Butterworth (The Banks of Green Willow); Boughton (Symphony No 3 in B minor). See Choice **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in G, Op 14 No 2); Shostakovich (Festival Overture); Brahms (Three Hungarian Dances); Wieniawski (Polonaise No 1)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Handel (Concerto grosso in A, Op 6 No 11); Rameau (La Timide; L'indiscrete; Pieces de Clavecin)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Painters — Joseph Turner with Donald Macleod
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Poulenc
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The first in a season of concerts from the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Brindisi Quartet. Schubert (String Quartet in G, D887)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Julian Lloyd Webber, cello
4.00 *Epiphany Carol Service* Live from the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, a special service of carols and secular readings to mark the arrival of Epiphany. Director of music Richard Marlow. Organ scholars Thomas Blunt and Mark Williams
5.00 *In Tune* Sean Rafferty explores settings of *The Jungle Book* and other Rudyard Kipling treasures.
7.30 Performance on 3: A Baroque Double Bill Purcell's one-act opera *Dido and Aeneas* recorded at last year's Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music. This concert pairs Purcell's enduring masterpiece with *Acteon*, by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Katerina Kameus, mezzo, Sophie Daneman, sopran, St James's Baroque Singers and Players under Ivor Bolton.
9.15 Postscript: Fictuality — Thank You for My Baby by Alison Joseph (3/5) (r)
9.35 Stravinsky Conducts Stravinsky Stravinsky (Jeu de cartes). Performed by the Cleveland Orchestra
10.00 Ensemble Includes Schumann (Piano Trio No 2 in F, Op 80). Performed by Vanya Milanova, violin, Paul Watkins, cello, Caroline Palmer, piano
10.45 Night Waves Patrick Wright considers the changing nature of illness in the modern age as observed in the latest book by the award-winning American writer David B. Morris
11.30 Jazz Notes The concluding part of a concert featuring the National Youth Jazz Orchestra
12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saens (r)
1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod. 1.00 Wagner (Wesendonk-Lieder), Bruckner (Symphony No 3 in D minor) 2.15 Weber (Clarinet Quintet in B flat, Op 34) 3.20 Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue) 4.35 Grieg (Peer Gynt Suite No 2) 5.10 Brahms (Piano Quartet No 2 in A, Op 26)

RADIO 4

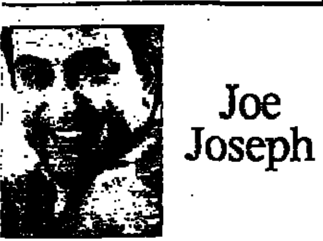
5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day with Lavinia Byrne
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill
6.00 Today with James Naughtie and Winifred Robinson
9.00 *Midweek* with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Vanished World (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 The Reclaimers The author Peter Benchley asks who should own valuable artefacts salvaged from shipwrecks
11.30 Choice Grenfell Maureen Lipman reinterprets Joyce Grenfell's monologues and songs (2/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Trixie Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker present consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Wildbrain Lionel Kelleway chairs the second semi-final of the wildlife quiz
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: A Love Song to the Buses Sarah Woods's tale about an autistic man travelling on the West Midland buses. With Victoria Worsley and David Reubin. See Choice
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Nigel Colborn, Bob Flowerdew and Anne Swithinbank answer questions from gardeners in Derbyshire (r)
3.30 The Melting Pot Tom Jaine explores communism's culinary consequences in the Balkans
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates the history of Britain, drawing on the words of Winston Churchill. Read by Paul Eddington (r)
4.00 Case Notes Special Tracey Logan explores how science can help infertile couples (r)
4.30 Thinking Allowed — The Larger Map with Laurie Taylor and guests
5.00 PM With Charlie Lee-Potter
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone June Whitfield stars in Mike Coleman's comedy about a mutually antagonistic Eurovision-winning duo suddenly thrust back into the limelight. With Roy Hudd and Pat Coombs (r)
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row Francine Stock presents the arts programme
7.45 Under One Roof by Michele Hanson (r)
8.00 Them and Us Diana Madill chairs a debate on whether asylum seekers place too great a burden on their host country. From Haringey Civic Centre
8.45 Letters of Complaint Tony Hawks examines the British tradition of complaining
9.00 Animals Behaving Badly Mike Carwardine surveys antisocial habits among animals (3/4)
9.30 Midweek (r) **10.00 The World Tonight**
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana Part three of Emile Zola's novel, read by Juliet Stevenson
11.00 Late Night on 4: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery The award-winning comedian Sean Lock presents his own brand of downbeat mirth from his South London tower block. With Kevin Eldon and Hattie Hayridge
11.15 For One Horrible Moment New series. Peter Bradshaw's darkly-humorous account of a boy's transition to adulthood in 1970s Cambridgeshire, beginning with the erotic repercussions of a playground encounter (1/5)
11.30 The Cheese Shop Present Comedy sketches, with Steve Davies, Jack Finsborough and songs by Ted Ruby. The Butter Factor (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts Gavin Muir reads part eight of Magnus Mills's tale
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Garnished with a balcony and sea view

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Why did Padstow's most famous chef travel all the way to Naples to kick off his new cookery series, **Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey** (BBC2)? Because that way he could be sure of laying his hands on that key ingredient needed to cook successfully even the most simple dishes abroad: a large balcony that looks out over a spectacular view. Antonio Carluccio did it, also in Italy (though he occasionally had to improvise by cooking *on a hillside*). Ken Hom did it, stir-frying his scallops al fresco in California. Now Rick's done it. You can feel pretty confident that if a country doesn't have the sort of architecture that accommodates balconies, then its cuisine doesn't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world of television cookery. Delia Smith made a half-hearted stab at it in her recent series by having a new kitchen specially built in her glass-walled conservatory: it afforded leafy views over the countryside beyond, but it just wasn't the same.

Not that Rick actually travelled to the Naples we ourselves see when we get off the plane. He was in a mysterious Naples which had no 16-year-olds avoiding traffic jams by driving their Vespas along the pavement, or people looking for horses' heads they could slip into their enemies' beds. In Rick's Naples, the men behaved like *extras in a Fellini movie*, and the women *all talked like Sophia Loren*. "This is like making love," purred Giovanna Raffome, a Neapolitan explaining the depth of her passion for food. "Making love is not just physical sex — it's love for everything, the flowers, the sea. Love for cooking is part of all that."

This is, in fact, exactly why Rick chose to begin his odyssey in Naples, "because it's a city where life revolves around food . . . people are brought up on the simple things. They have a focus on ingredients and care about them. Italy is about passion and flavours. They couldn't give a stuff about coriander and lemongrass. They just *want to know where the best tomatoes and lemons come from.*" In this, Rick pinpointed one of the glories of Italian food: Italians have been cooking these dishes for centuries and have reached the conclusion that if they could be improved by adding galangal and coconut milk, then someone would have *done it by now. Critics might* call this attitude insular. Fans rejoice for it.

Yet in his quest for simplicity, Rick experiences erratic and alarming mood swings: one moment he's a gentle soul, rhapsodising romantically about tomatoes: the next he ignites like a chip-pan fire, inveighing against "flim-flam garnishes" and "bits of whatnot on the top"; and the next he's reciting emotionally from Tennyson and Conrad, as though afflicted by a peculiarly articulate form of Tourette's syndrome.

Naturism documentaries may not be the new rock 'n' roll, but they're fast turning into the new television cookery show. Soon everybody'll be making one. You wait years for a film-maker to take his clothes off in front of the camera, and then suddenly two naked film-makers come along at once. Don Boyd's **Full Frontal in Flip Flops** (ITV) lost some of its punch coming so soon after Channel 4's documentary which covered *similar* ground (flesh?). It was another gawp at a bunch of people you won't be seeing rifling enthusiastically through the clothes racks in the January sales. But what it lost in punch it made up for in paunch — Boyd's paunch — as we watched the director struggle entertainingly with the dilemma of whether or not to join his subjects and go naked at Sue and Dave's wedding reception along with the guests.

Any thought that the naked option might have been his way of saving money on hiring a morning coat at Moss Bros was soon dispelled when Boyd took to the nudist lifestyle with all the passion of the newly liberated convert. Once he'd taken the plunge, it was hard for Boyd to keep his genitals out of camera shot. But Boyd also took the trouble to point out that nudism is not just about a group of people who feel persecuted by society because they find clothes restrictive. *He interviewed James* Scarlett, who was raided by Customs after they'd intercepted naturist videos showing a French holiday camp, in which children were frolicking naked. Scarlett eventually won his case.

But what was intriguing *about this episode* was not that it made you wonder why anybody would *want* to watch a video of a French holiday camp, it was the startling advocacy skills of Scarlett's lawyer, who told Boyd that: "You cannot possibly take items like this and take them off the market and all of a sudden paedophilia as a problem will disappear. As a lawyer I have occasionally had to deal with cases of bestiality: that doesn't mean to say that you shouldn't be allowed to take photographs of sheep." It's certainly a bewitching argument, especially if you've had a lot to drink.

Launching a new series of **Great Railway Journeys** (BBC2), Ian Hislop travelled mostly hopefully across India — from Calcutta in the East to Jaisalmer in the West — somehow pulling off the trick of doing many of the travelogue things you see television visitors do in India but making them seem fresh. Maybe Hislop's engaging and observant journey will do for Indian tourism what Delia did for such familiar staples as eggs and omelette pans, and we'll all find ourselves booking holidays on the enticing "palace on wheels" from Jaipur to Jodhpur this year. But as he hung, sweating, from the strap of one of Calcutta's new subway trains, Hislop — packed in as snug as a cigarette in a new pack of Marlboros — told us: "You don't really go to India. You get in it." Still, at least they weren't all naked, too.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (41254)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (87983)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8936761)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5309631)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (7275525)
11.00 Real Rooms (7285902)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7255761)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1488457)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (58322)
12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (83506)
1.00 One O'Clock News *(T) (80070)*
1.30 Regional News; Weather (86969761)
1.40 Neighbours Lou, Madge and Harold continue feuding (T) (65656877)
2.05 Ironside A tobacconist unwittingly becomes involved in narcotics dealing. With Raymond Burr (r) (7932051)
2.55 Going for a Song (8834506)
3.20 The Weather Show Weather stories and reports (T) (2265457)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (9875326) **3.45** Little Monsters (9350457) **3.50** ChuckleVision (8367419) **4.10** See It Saw It (4334411) **4.35** The Wild House (1991693) **5.00** Newsround (5738322) **5.10** Blue Peter (6878877)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (788964)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (159)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (821)
7.00 Money for Old Rope Johnathan Maitland offers tips on making the most of financial investments (T) (1308)
7.30 CHOICE **Dream House** New series. Carol Vorderman and a team of experts attempt to build a dream house for the 21st century (T) (235)
8.00 Changing Rooms New series. The team come to the rescue of four neighbours whose kitchens are badly in need of a *revamp (T) (9896)*
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home Shauna Lowry introduces the first of a series of highlights from the daytime documentary. The comedian Sean Hughes visits the shelter to choose a companion for his dog Bill (1/6) (T) (610916)
8.50 National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories Musician David Curtiss celebrates an unexpected success (T) (939877)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6167)
9.30 The X Files A computer program with its own reasoning and conscience destroys its creator and plans further destruction (T) (750341)
10.15 CHOICE **Jobs for the Boys** New series. Hale and Pace try their hand at sports commentary (T) (263525)
11.10 Volcano: Fire on the Mountain (1997) FILM Premiere. Dan Cortese stars in this disaster movie about an idyllic ski resort thrown into panic by the eruption of a nearby volcano. Directed by Graeme Campbell (T) (355815)
12.35am The Cassandra Crossing (1976) FILM A wounded terrorist carrying a deadly virus boards a transcontinental train, risking the lives of all on board. Disaster epic, starring *Burt Lancaster and Martin Sheen*. Directed by George Cosmatos (T) (689736)
2.35 Weather (4935552)
2.40 BBC News 24 (24970216)

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BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Dilly the Dinosaur (7845439) **7.05** Teletubbies (2201896) **7.30** Yogi's Treasure Hunt (2594983) **7.50** The Really Wild Show (3166148) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9134148) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (6002603) **8.55** Dilly the Dinosaur (6598070) **9.00** Brum (7339186) **9.10** The Phil Silvers Show (6734693) **9.35** The Phil Silvers Show (5129419) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (41693) **10.30** FILM: The Battle of Austerlitz (42964) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (81148) **1.00** Brum (73947506)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour Francine Stock looks at antique clocks (2762148)
2.10 Darts: World Professional Championship Highlights of yesterday's second-round matches. Includes News at **2.40** and **3.25** (98379693)
5.30 Wildlife on Two (728)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation A boy rescued from a wrecked spacecraft claims aliens attacked the ship — but is he telling the truth? (r) (T) (462322)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer A series of unpleasant accidents disrupts the cheerleader auditions (T) (235525)
7.30 Tales from the Riverbank Geoffrey Palmer looks at all aspects of angling, spending a summer day fishing a trout *stream (r) (T) (877)*

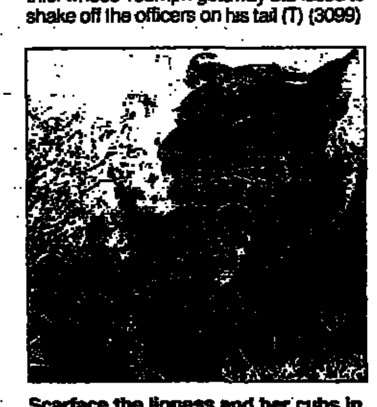


Bull elephant seals fighting for the right to mate (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Battle of the Sexes** New series. Samuel West narrates an insight into the sex lives of animals, revealing a competitive, selfish and violent battle for supremacy where biggest is often best as aggressive males vie for the ultimate prize — a mate (T) (7436)
8.30 Home Front Salvage expert Neville Griffiths shows how to recreate a period bathroom (T) (9273)
9.00 Red Dwarf VI The crew find themselves facing a gang of virtual reality gunslingers inside Kryten's electronic mindscape (r) (T) (4709)
9.30 Clockwatch How the coming of the railways led to a change in the way the country told the time (T) (169457)
9.40 The Flow of Time The paradoxes of time, questioning the long-held belief that it flows like a river and suggesting instead that the future and past are very much out there (T) (384457)
10.20 Trade Secrets Photographers reveal all (r) (T) (544419)
10.30 Newsnight Presented by Jeremy Paxman (T) (480490)
11.13 Suspended in Time (T) (938877)
11.15 Darts: World Professional Championships Round-up of the action (548148)
11.55 Weather (720070)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show Doberman stands for mayor (r) (33303)
12.30am Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (87544)
6.00 GMTV (6068186)
9.25 Trisha (T) (2393612)
10.25 This Morning (T) (62821631)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (9626235)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (42542)
1.00 WEST: Next Stop Local news update from Shepton Mallet, presented by Richard Wyatt and Polly Lloyd (82438)
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street (82438)
1.30 Home and Away Gypsy doubts Will's sincerity (T) (92083)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous anything-goes talk show (T) (2166341)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (173612)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2253612)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2250525)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2240148) **3.35** Teddybears (8782070) **3.45** Jumanji (8791780) **4.10** Whizzwig (9837051) **4.40** Mad for It (7376983)
5.10 A Country Practice Terence and Rosemary's plans go to pot (4202934)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (319983)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (373322)
6.00 Home and Away Gypsy doubts Will's sincerity (r) (T) (651612)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (165032)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (990148)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (419)
7.00 Emmerdale Terry turns down Viv's offer (T) (8544)
7.30 Coronation Street Alf's funeral proves a trying occasion for Audrey (T) (631)
8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Big-prize game show (T) (4964)
8.30 Police, Camera, Action! The pursuit of a runaway coach on the M1 and a car thief whose 150mph getaway bid failed to shake off the officers on his tail (T) (3099)



Scarface the lioness and her cubs in the Nakuru National Park (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Survival Special** The story of Scarface, a lioness who lives in the Nakuru National Park along with her eight cubs (T) (6419)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (51419)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (796693)
10.40 Shining Through (1992) FILM A secretary discovers her boss moonlights as a spy for American military intelligence. Romantic thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Melanie Griffith. Directed by David Seltzer (T) (65643867)
1.05am Strangers (1990) FILM Drama about a businessman whose life is thrown into turmoil by his relationships with three different women. James Healey stars. Directed by Craig Lahiff (713668)
2.45 ***Masterclass*** *Wayne Sleep (7108303)*
3.10 Club@vision (r) (4937587)
3.55 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (8339736)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (73108213)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (46484)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News (6242983)
1.00 Echo Point (82438)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9271438)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (174341)
3.20-3.25 Central News (2250525)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4202934)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (165032)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (796693)
3.50am Central Jobfinder '99 (2118649)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye *(4413649)*

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (9626235)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (6250902)
1.00 Emmerdale (82438)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9271438)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (174341)
3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (2250525)
5.08 Birthday People (8857032)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4202934)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (86693)
10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (796693)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30pm Meridian News; Weather (9626235)
1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (82438)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away;
6.00 Meridian Tonight (167)
6.30-7.00 Birdwatch (419)
10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather (796693)
5.00-5.30am Freescreen (46484)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6221490)
12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (6242983)
1.00-1.35 Up Shot! (1596506)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4202934)
6.24 Anglia Weather (991877)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (165032)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (817877)
10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (796693)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (45296032) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47266186) **9.00 The Cosby Show** (r) (T) (16827032) **9.30 FILM: The Cruel Sea** (T) (14076964) **11.50 Earthscape** (T) (88694235) **12.00pm Here's One I Made Earlier** (T) (16847896) **12.30 Sesame Street** (38832070) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (54603544) **1.00 Ffwrdd a ni** (54603544) **1.15 Miffi** (54608099) **1.30 Travelog Treks** (T) (69110273) **1.45 FILM: The Enemy Below** (T) (34521612) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56529877) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** ***Highlights*** (T) (56531612) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (56537896) **5.00 Planed Plant** (11587506) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56528148) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69407438) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95109235) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (35987362) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56538525) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (29682970) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (30937867) **9.00 Stonehenge: Secret of the Stones** (1/2) (T) (51374870) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (54396433) **10.35 Friends** (T) (67211341) **11.05 Body Story** (6/6) (T) (15816803) **11.35 FILM: Edward Scissorhands** (T) (10967983) **1.30am Deviants** (67152649) **1.40 Gazzetta Football Italia** (89019668) **3.35 Trans World Sport** (50230262) **4.35 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4058544)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (70693)
9.00 The Cosby Show (r) (T) (61896)
9.30 Ten North Frederick (1958) FILM Family drama, with Gary Cooper. Directed by Philip Dunne (T) (18273)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (3070)
12.00pm Sesame Street (41032)
12.30 Bewitched (42524)
1.00 Pet Rescue The work of RSPCA centres (r) (T) (73780)
1.30 Web Animated short (79343506)
1.35 Golden Girl (1951) FILM Musical about a woman who becomes a showbiz star, little realising the heartache waiting just around the corner. Mitzi Gaynor stars. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (T) (20425051)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace Joe Cowell describes the night, in 1986, when the palace caught fire (T) (525)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights (r) (T) (772)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1985032)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (4096490)
5.30 Pet Rescue The RSPCA team rescue a cat wedged underneath a bridge and rush it to the Ark for a check-up (T) (896)
6.00 Caroline in the City Del and Charlie find love in the launderette and Caroline consults her boyfriend for advice about her poorly cat (659254)
6.25 Suddenly Susan *A friend begins to take up too much of Susan's time, and Jack tries to improve work relations (667273)*
6.55 Planet Pop Music news (783070)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (958099)
7.55 Cuban Faces What everyday life is like in Habana Vieja (3/5) (T) (803693)
8.00 Brookside Gemma has a shock in store (T) (2506)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show Three Glasgow pals take a trip to Turkey, the Cunliffes from Lancashire book a last-minute family holiday to Minorca and a travel agent visits Jordan (7/8) (T) (4341)



Robbie Coltrane stars as the psychologist Fitz (9pm)

9.00 Cracker Part two. The teacher accused of murdering a teenage boy confesses to the crime, but DCI Bilborough soon notices inconsistencies in his testimony. Robbie Coltrane and Christopher Eccleston star (2/2) (T) (88767612)
11.05 Whose Line Is It Anyway? With Ryan Stiles and Phil LaMarr (156051)
11.35 Fidel Portrait of the Cuban President, whose leadership of his troubled country has kept him in the spotlight (253099)
1.10am Board X Last year's snowboarding festival (r) (6030228)
1.40 Gazzetta Football Italia Round-up of the week's action (r) (797755)
3.35 Transworld Sport (r) (8326262)
4.30 The Power and the Glory (1933) FILM Drama, told entirely in flashback, about the rags-to-riches rise of an industrial tycoon. With Spencer Tracy. Directed by William K Howard (4633823)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (7164341)
7.00 WideWorld The realities of rural life in Victorian England (r) (T) (9269544)
7.30 Milkshake! (3502867)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (9990457)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1330148)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (1339419)
9.00 Hot Property (1353099)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6782693)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2380341)
11.10 Leeza (r) (2277167)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1333235)
12.30 Family Affairs Annie tells Chris they're through (r) (T); 5 News Update (9109964)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila is found in a pool of blood (T) (9268815)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9108235)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6529235)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 *News Update (4728099)*
3.30 Joe Dancer — The Big Black Pill (TVM 1981) FILM A private detective is wrongly accused of murder, and follows a trail of corruption that leads to a wealthy family. With Robert Blake and JoBeth Williams. Directed by Reza Badiyi (9895490)
5.20 Sunset Beach (r) (T) (6351419)
6.00 100 Per Cent (5480544)
6.30 Family Affairs Dave works his charm on Annie (T) (5471896)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6523051)
7.30 Champions of the Wild The work of the Tigers Forever project, which was set up to highlight the illegal trade in animal parts (T) (5460780)
8.00 The Pepsi Chart From London's Sound Republic, presented by Dr Fox. Featuring a performance by the Lighthouse Family; 5 News Update (6549099)
8.30 Road Rages New series exploring the origin of the modern phenomenon of "road rage", and separating myth from reality surrounding such unknown quantities as female car owners and Sunday drivers (1/6) (T) (6528506)
9.00 Those Secrets (TVM 1991) FILM A young mother is forced to resume her former life as a prostitute when her marriage falls apart. Emotional drama, with Blair Brown, *Arliss Howard and Paul Guilfoyle*. Directed by David Manson; (T) 5 News Update (52404032)



Gail Porter stands in for Melinda Messenger (10.40pm)

10.40 Not Melinda's Big Night In Showbiz chat hosted by Gail Porter (3686490)
11.20 Strange Luck New series about a journalist who attracts good luck. After helping Chance to deliver a baby, Angie decides to find out what a typical day in his life is like (5914083)
12.15am NHL: American Ice Hockey St Louis Blues at Vancouver Canucks (89850858)
4.40 Club Class Comedy (r) (72706804)
5.05 Move on Up (r) (85856945)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2051151)

PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● *For further listings see Saturday's Vision*

SKY 1

7.00am Count Duckula (43231) **7.30** Chris Evans (35790) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (86506) **9.00** Sally (13983) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (15780) **11.00** Guilty! (35544) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (37341) **1.00** Mad About You (93772) **1.30** Jeopardy (24877) **2.00** Sally (93070) **3.00** Jenny Jones (26761) **4.00** Guilty! (45896) **5.00** Star Trek: *Deep Space Nine (1419)* **6.00** Married With Children (8051) **6.30** Friends (2631) **7.00** Simpsons (2148) **7.30** Simpsons (6815) **8.00** Stargate SG-1 (56490) **9.00** X-Files (76254) **10.00** Millennium (79341) **11.00** Friends (46525) **11.30** Earth: Final Conflict (78032) **12.30am** Highlander (96552) **1.30** Long Play (5239216)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Volcano (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Excess Baggage (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **George of the Jungle (1997)** **Starship Troopers (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Crash (1996)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (1973) (6287631) **7.30 Jimi Plays Monterey (1987)** (1832728) **8.30 Bullets Over Broadway (1994)** (15514525) **10.10 Day for Night (1973)** (2059419) **12.00am Quiz Show (1994)** (30834901) **2.10 Red Rock West (1993)** (2380465) **3.50 The Last Seduction (1994)** (53844281) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am My Cousin Rachel (1952) (46877) **8.00 Hamlet (1996)** (82964) **10.00 Three Wishes** *(1995)* (27964) **12.00pm Mrs Winterbourne (1996)** (88065) **2.00 Big (1988)** (68235) **4.00 Hamlet (1996)** (7693) **6.00 Mrs Winterbourne (1996)** (88099) **8.00 Jerry Maguire (1996)** (88739438) **10.20 Courage Under Fire (1996)** (505187) **12.15am Badlands (1973)** (219981) **1.50 Edie and Pen (1996)** (300858) **3.30 Swimming with Sharks (1994)** (394216)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.25am For Hope (1997) (90910419) **7.00** UK Top 10 (32467) **7.30** Femmes Fatales: Demi Moore (11984) **8.00** Movie Magic: Body Building (92631) **9.00 Son of Godzilla (1967)** (39506) **11.00 A Holiday for Love (1996)** (55612) **1.00pm** UK Top 10 (31728) **1.30** Femmes Fatales: Demi Moore (8646983) **2.15** Movie Magic: Body Building (3195235) **3.00 UHF (1989)** (89148) **5.00 A Holiday for Love (1996)** (10493) **7.00 Spiceworld: The Movie (1997)** (12693) **9.00 False Pretense (1997)** (84273) **11.00 Macho Man: Action Jackson (1988)** (735983) **12.40am Dangerous Ground (1997)** (573216) **2.20 Childhood Sweethearts (1997)** (491620) **3.55 In the Name of Love: A Texas Tragedy (1995)** (3217755)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Call Northside 777 (1948) (8252148) **6.00 Government Girl (1943)** (7623781) **8.00 Back to Bataan (1945)** (7635506) **10.00 Fistful of Dollars (1964)** (9481196) ***11.40 The Perfect Murder*** **(1988)** (7065728) **1.00am You're Telling Me (1934)** (5723889) **2.30 Woodstock (1970)** (8865938)

TNT

9.00pm Lust for Life (1956) (39258273) **11.30 Dirty Dingus Magee (1970)** (47268273) **1.15am Hit Man (1972)** (73343532) **2.45 Lust for Life (1956)** (16088804) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style **9.30** You're On! **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Total Sport **11.30** Fastrax **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** Equestrianism **2.30** World Windsurfing **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Boxing Superbouts **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** World Pool League **7.30** Live Basketball **9.30** Unbelievable Sports **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On! **10.45** *World Pool League* **11.45** *Sports Centre* **12.00am** You're On! **12.30** Basketball **2.30** Figure Skating **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am *Aerobics Oz Style* **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Live International Cricket **4.00pm** International Cricket **6.30** *International Cricket* **11.00** *Golf Extra* **2.00am** World Pool League **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation Shotgun **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Boxing Superbouts **3.00** Olympic Series: Road to Nagano **3.30** Golf Extra **6.30** Watersports World **7.30** Unbelievable Sports **8.00** Figure Skating **10.00** Sky Sports Classics Gold: Nigel Mansell Indy 500 **11.00** Football: The Entertainers **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally **8.00** Alpine Skiing **9.00** Live Alpine Skiing **10.00** Ski-Jumping **11.00** Rally **11.30** Live Alpine Skiing **12.30pm** Live Ski-Jumping **2.30** Snowboarding **3.00** Live Tennis **5.00** Alpine Skiing **6.45** Ski-Jumping **7.30** Live Football **9.30** Rally **10.00** Boxing **11.00** Ski-Jumping **12.00am** Rally **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Angels **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, Minister **9.00** One Foot in the Grave **9.40** Jonathan Creek **11.30** French and *Saunders* **12.10am** *The Bill* **12.40** *The Bill* **1.10** Spender **2.05** Dangerfield **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop.

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** That's My Boy **8.30** Second Thoughts **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Watching **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** *Mission: Impossible* **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Brian Conley Show **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Casper Van Dien stars in Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi blockbuster *Starship Troopers* (Sky Box Office, Sky Box Office 3)

CARLTON SELECT [CABLE]

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Rising Damp **7.00** Boon **8.00** Men of the World **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **10.00** Soldier, Soldier **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Rising Damp **12.40** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** Timon and Pumbaa **8.00** 101 Dalmatians **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Hercules: The TV Show **9.00** Art Attack **9.15** Ned's Newt **9.30** Recess **9.45** Pepper Ann **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** *Smart Guy* **11.00** *Teen Angel* **11.30** *Flash Forward* **12.00pm** Doug **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00 FILM: Ship of Adventure** **2.20** Classic Toons **2.30** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa **3.45** 101 Dalmatians **4.10** Hercules: The TV Show **4.40** Art Attack **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** *Recess* **5.45** Pepper Ann **6.00** The Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00 FILM: Dance 'Til Dawn (1997)** **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** *Sam and Max* **12.30** *Donkey Kong Country* **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Fraggle Rock **6.30** Muppet Babies **7.00** Watch You Own Wednesday **7.00pm** Close

TROUBLE

8.00am Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** *California Dreams* **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempest **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Blast **7.00** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sex **11.00 FILM: Angel Heart (1987)** **1.15am** Sex Bytes **1.45** Scary Sex **2.15** Extreme Championship Wrestling **3.00 FILM: Rollerball (1975)** **5.15** LAPD **5.45** Short **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmond's **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** Just Shoot Me **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Festival of Fun II **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Wings **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** *Twilight Zone* **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Flash **9.00** PSI Factor - Chronicles of the Paranormal **10.00 FILM: Witchboard: The Possession (1995)** **11.45** Sci-Focus **12.00am** PSI Factor - Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00 FILM: Little Devils: The Birth (1993)** **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Garden Rescue **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country, Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** *Australia's Strangest Home Improvements* **12.30** Doing It Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** Wood Wizard **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** The Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke **5.30** Jurassica **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Hunters **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** *Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe* **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** History's Mysteries **9.30** History's Mysteries **10.00** Lost Treasures of the Yangtze Valley **11.00** Ferrari **12.00am** Raging Planet **1.00** Connections 2 by James Burke **1.30** Ancient Warriors **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia: A Fresh View **1.00** Nature Watch With Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** All Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World: New Zealand **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **10.30** Crocodile Hunters **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Love of Falcons **7.30** Animal Attraction **8.00** Island of the Giant Bears **9.00** Japanese Traditions **9.30** Sumo: Dance of the Gargantuans **10.00** The Art of the Warrior **11.00** On the Edge: The Most Dangerous Jump in the World **11.30** On the Edge: Race for the Palio **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Asteroids — Deadly Impact

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War: France Falls **5.00** Classic Cars: Mustang **6.00** Mummies: The Sphinx **7.00** Biography: The Duke of Marlborough

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Retrospectives **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Caribbean Light **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Philbert the Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny Tales **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** *Tiny Tales* **8.35** *Tiny and Crew* **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Diet Show **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** The Jerry Springer Show **4.00** Michael Cole **4.40** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call **9.00 FILM: The Substitute Wife (1994)** **11.00** *Sex Life Down Under* **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Panchwan Mausam **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Tum Salamat Ra** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Campus **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Gumrah **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Amma Abba Aur All **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Rashai **2.00 FILM: Gujarati Movie: Chandan Malyagiri** **4.30** Val No Valessan

RUGBY UNION 36
Dallaglio gears up Wasps to renew challenge for title

SPORT

SIMON BARNES 34
How young superstars can so easily fall back to earth



Bassett angry over dismissal

Forest target Atkinson in survival fight

By Richard Hobson

THE uneasy and occasionally fractious relationship between Dave Bassett and the Nottingham Forest plc directors ended yesterday with an acrimonious departure from the club that he guided into the FA Carling Premiership last season. Bassett had read of his impending dismissal in the morning newspapers before his worst fears were confirmed by Phil Soar, the chief executive.

Although Micky Adams, his assistant, has been placed in temporary charge for the visit to Coventry City on Saturday, the board will meet 24 hours earlier to discuss a replacement. Ron Atkinson, at present on holiday in Bermuda, is the clear favourite, having shepherded Sheffield Wednesday to safety in 1997-98. The task at Forest, in twentieth place and without a win in 17 league games, a Premiership record, would appear to be harder still.

Soar confirmed that Atkinson was among the candidates, but said that no contact had yet been made "to my knowledge". Any approach will come from Irving Scholar, the director in charge of the club's football affairs, who decided Bassett's fate.

In an unfortunate slip of the tongue as he read a prepared statement, Soar said that Bassett was leaving "by mutual consent", only to correct the error in his next breath. For once, the garrulous Bassett kept his observations succinct before he left the City Ground for the last time. The relative brevity of his comments amplified his frustration.

"Getting the sack is part and parcel of football. It is a volatile business and I am more upset at the way it has been done," Bassett, whose compensation payment may amount to several hundred thousand pounds, said.

"The club have done it in an undignified manner . . . to see it in the papers and then have it confirmed is a rather rude way of doing business. It shows the difference in quality of dealing with people. When I was sacked by Elton John at Watford he called me to his agent's home. We sat down and sorted out the situation — we were both upset but realised what had to happen. We had a glass of champagne and remain friends." It is hard to imagine him sharing a drink with his latest employers.

Bassett was appointed as general manager of Forest in March 1997, a month after the club had been taken over by a five-man consortium that included Soar, Scholar and Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens Rugby Football Club. He assumed full control after Stuart Pearce left for Newcastle United, when Forest slipped into the Nationwide League first division, and supervised an immediate return to the Premiership.

However, problems surfaced last summer with the sales of Colin Cooper and Kevin Campbell and the decision of Pierre van Hooijdonk to conduct a one-man strike in Holland. Bassett was further aggrieved when the board paved the way for Van Hooijdonk to return two months into the season, having bought Neil Shipperley as a replacement for £1.5 million.

He felt that the Holland international forward would undermine morale and the pair never disguised a mutual antipathy. While suggesting that "the majority of players think they have let Dave Bassett down", Adams admitted that "some are highly pleased" with his departure — a clear indication that all is not well in the dressing-room.

Despite spending around £17 million in 22 months, Bassett felt more money needed to be made available as attempts to sign Brian Deane and Nathan Blake were scuppered on the grounds of cost. Indeed, Atkinson may be reluctant to accept the job of saving Forest from a third relegation in seven seasons, knowing that any funds must be generated through sales. There is also unease among supporters, who have protested more vocally against the board than Bassett after each of the past two home games.

Wray, the majority shareholder and plc chairman, said on Monday that the bank would not give any more money. A share flotation last summer realised just £2 million. "This is where we are and we have to get out of it," Wray said.

Referring to the financial situation, Geoff Thomas, one of the most successful signings before injury took hold, said that Bassett "has been punished for something that was not in his control". He added: "Dave is one of the best motivators in the game. With the results we have had there was going to be a question mark, but whether somebody else can come in and turn it around . . . I don't know if that is the answer."

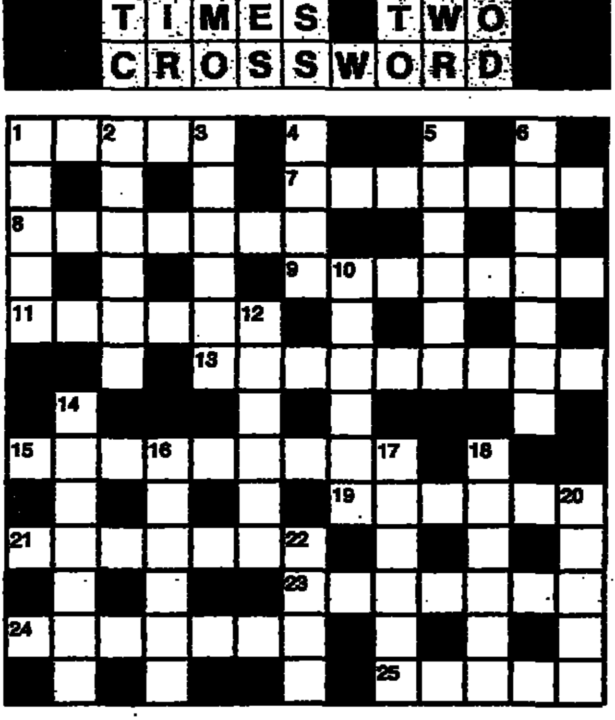
Hounded out, page 38

DAVID TYRRELL/ALLSPORT



Bassett, left, returns from training to hear his fate yesterday

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1607

ACROSS
1 Be oblique (5)
7 Oppressive rule (7)
8 Within hearing (7)
9 Having extrasensory perception (7)
11 Without strength (6)
13 Obstreperous (9)
15 Full of passionate unreason (9)
19 Humbert's obsession (*Nabokov*) (6)
21 Distorted (eg message) (7)
23 Quito its capital (7)
24 Displaying no initiative (7)
25 Linger (5)

DOWN
1 Muffler (5)
2 Bad (egg) (6)
3 Romeo kills him (*Shak.*) (6)
4 Measure: stair (4)
5 Abandon, make void (6)
6 Very old (7)
10 Gregarious: like Rousseau's *Contract* (6)
12 White stoat fur (6)
14 Muslim fasting month (7)
16 Place of lying in wait (6)
17 Plaguey grasshopper (6)
18 Load-bearing beam (6)
20 Regular, imposing display (5)
22 Profound (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1606
ACROSS: 7 Hypochondria 9 Rapport 10 Padre 11 Hoop 12 Typecast 15 Plymouth 17 Lift 19 Lathi 21 Overall 22 Get the hang of
DOWN: 1 Symphony 2 Colon 3 Chatty 4 Snippet 5 Bred 6 Take its toll 8 Archipelago 13 Animator 14 Tonight 16 Trophy 18 Jenny 20 Tote

CLIVE MASON/ALLSPORT



Stewart, the England captain, third from left, and his players look on as Australia celebrate their victory in the fifth Test and the Ashes series

England revival gives Stewart opportunity to bat for Lloyd

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, in Sydney

SYDNEY (fourth day of five): Australia beat England by 98 runs

EMBOLDENED by defeat in which there was, eventually, no dishonour, Alec Stewart yesterday made a plea for continuity in the management of the England team. His remarks may seem untimely on the day another Ashes series was lost 3-1, but Stewart recognised it as a moment in which he could speak from strength.

Stewart wants to continue in the captaincy when his appointment expires after the World Cup in June. Moreover, and far less likely, he wants David Lloyd to remain as coach and he is plainly prepared to bend a few ears to achieve it. He used the after-match ceremony as his first platform, specifying in his speech what help he had enjoyed from Lloyd and adding: "I would like to think we'll go on working together for some while to come." In the media conference that followed, he returned to the topic. "David Lloyd has done a tremendous job as coach and I hope he continues to do it," Stewart said.

This was the second calculating intervention Stewart has made on Lloyd's behalf in the space of four months. Back in September, as Lloyd wavered over his future after a second stern reprimand for public statements, Stewart sought out media outlets in which to voice his support of the coach.

Now, aware that there are those seeking a change, and that Lloyd's response to it has been to identify his own time to stand aside, Stewart has spoken out again. He chose his moment well, for this was a day, indeed a fortnight, on which England heads could be held high, even in Australia. The final Test of a series far more memorable than had seemed likely ended 20 minutes after lunch on its fourth afternoon. The fantasy of an England victory faded fast once Stuart MacGill, upstaging Shane Warne once more, had eliminated the middle order on his way to match figures of 12 for 107.

It was an outcome that had seemed inevitable since England lost the toss, yet they had hurled themselves at Australia with such ferocity that, fleetingly, one of the most remarkable of all Test victories had been a possibility. So often, it has been the manner of defeat that has dismayed England followers. Here, it was the manner of it that cheered the thousands of supporters who had turned Sydney, like Barbados a year ago, into an outpost of St John's Wood.

'The race is not always to the swift, and Taylor has proved himself the most sure-footed of men'
Michael Henderson on the Australia captain, page 35

Praise came from all quarters. Typically, Mark Taylor was gracious in victory. The Australia captain said he felt England had played better in Sydney than in the Melbourne Test they won. He added: "We have been challenged over the last ten days. England haven't just made us wobble, they've nailed us. They bowled us out twice in each game, which I had always thought would be their problem. In the first three Tests I hadn't seen much change in their cricket, but the last two were different."

A fourth morning of clear blue skies and hot sunshine brought another fine crowd, alive with expectation. Yesterday's attendance of 27,754 raised the match aggregate to 142,282, rescuing the budget of the Australian Board after the Boxing Day washout and three-day finish in Melbourne. It also proved beyond valid argument that the Ashes retains its status as the greatest of cricket's attractions.

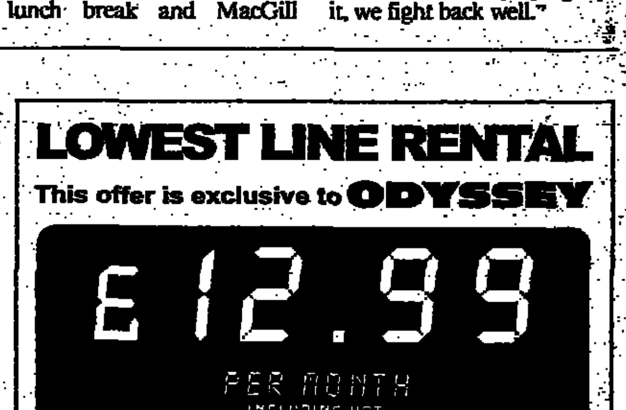
It required optimism on a grand scale to believe England's eight remaining wickets would yield the 183 runs still required, but they had probably not bargained on losing one of their most important wickets to seam bowling. Glenn McGrath dismissed Mark Ramprakash through a smart, low catch at first slip by Taylor, taking him past Allan Border to the world catches record of 157. Warne opened from the other end and repeatedly spun the ball past the bat without reward. "He's not at his best yet," Taylor said. "As they say in racing, he will be better for the run, but although one leggie got 12 wickets and the other only two, I didn't think there was much between them."

Nasser Hussain was once again batting with great skill and intensity, working the ball into gaps for the singles that eluded his team-mates. It was a violent square drive for four, though, that saw McGrath out of the attack and ushered the game towards a rapid end.

MacGill, unrecognisable from the erratic bowler who began the series in Brisbane, needed only nine balls to open his day's collection, bowling Graeme Hick behind his legs as he missed a sweep. Hussain, when 44, was missed by Healy off MacGill but it was Colin Miller, firing in his off breaks, who removed John Crawley with a questionable leg-before decision.

Warren Hegg, who has proved no more productive than his predecessors at No 7, toe-ended a catch to Healy in straining to reach a long-hop from MacGill, who then effectively ended the contest by taking a return catch from Hussain as he checked a drive. The game squeezed past the lunch break and MacGill picked up the last three wickets in four overs. Tudor was bowled sweeping, Headley went to an instinctive grab from Healy and, finally, Such saw his powerful shot strike the heel of Slater, at silly point, and lob up for MacGill to catch in the style of a man who can do no wrong.

Stewart led his players across to the stand where England's more vocal supporters had chanted through four days. Then he spoke with honesty of a series that had slipped away before England began to play. "I think 3-1 was a fair reflection because we underperformed for the first three Tests," he said. "But when we are really up against it, we fight back well."



FA rules dictate long campaign

Matt Dickinson says candidates for the FA chairmanship are biding their time

THOSE who believe that the Football Association should press ahead with the appointment of a new chairman immediately, rather than waiting until the summer, received powerful backing yesterday from one of the leading candidates for the position. David Sheepshanks, chairman of Ipswich Town and one of the favourites to succeed Keith Wiseman, who resigned on Monday, believes the interim period is unhelpful.

"It is a pity that it will take so long," he said, "but the constitution of the FA only allows the election of the chairman once a year, at its annual meeting."

That will ensure five months of electioneering until the vote in June but none of the expected candidates would declare their hand yesterday for fear of being seen as too eager. "I am flattered by the attention in the press," Sheepshanks said, "but we will have to wait and see. It is a huge job with a lot of challenges to be met on and off the field." There seems little doubt, though, that the old Etonian will stand.

However, his position would be complicated should Ipswich Town win promotion from the Nationwide League first division this season. As one of the Football League's representatives on the FA Council, Sheepshanks would have to seek re-election either through his local association or from the Premier League.

Geoff Thompson, who is deputising as chairman until June, has yet to declare his hand but seems certain to stand, while David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal, and Dave Richards, chairman of Sheffield Wednesday, will canvas opinion from Premiership chairmen first.

Next week, the FA's executive committee will have the first look at a working party's proposals for reform of the association. These are expected to include a plan to cut drastically the number of councillors from the amateur game by merging county associations into larger regions. How much power the FA Carling Premiership clubs should wield is certain to cause lively debate as will suggestions that Wiseman's successor should become the organisation's first paid chairman.

Applications for the post of chief executive will also be sifted through next week, and it has to be decided whether the appointment should be made before or after the issue of the chairmanship is resolved.